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ABSTRACT

In 1996, UNICEF's 50th anniversary year, the organization celebrated its achievements in saving and improving the lives of millions of children and women. At the same time, it took stock of the many lessons learned from a half century at the forefront of development. As a result of this assessment, UNICEF took several important measures to strengthen its work. It delineated its mission, placing the Convention on the Rights of the Child at its core; analyzed progress made in achieving the Year 2000 goals for children established at the 1990 World Summit for Children; took steps to decentralize its operations, making them more transparent, efficient and cost-effective, and increased opportunities for staff members to participate more fully in decision making and management. This annual report reviews the organization's activities during 1996. Following an overview by UNICEF's executive director, the report details the following topics: regional developments in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific regions, The Americas and Caribbean region, and central and eastern Europe. Highlights of the year are listed, followed by descriptions of the organization's communication activities, and partnerships with governmental and nongovernmental organizations around the world. UNICEF's resources and management are also detailed. The report concludes with an appendix describing major decisions made by UNICEF's executive board during 1996. (HTH)

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# UNICEF Annual Report

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# *1997 UNICEF Annual Report*

*Covering 1 January to 31 December 1996*

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*So much money is spent on fighting;*
*instead,*
*it should be spent on children*
*like me.*

— *Suresh, age 15, from India*

# *UNICEF Executive Board*

1 January to 31 December 1997

## OFFICERS FOR 1997:

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Dr. Mercedes Pulido de Briceño (Venezuela)

*Vice-Presidents*

Mr. Dino Beti (Switzerland)
Ms. Hazel de Wet (Namibia)
H.E. Ambassador Ngo Quang Xuan (Viet Nam)
Mr. Fikret Mamedali Pashayev (Azerbaijan)

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*Term of office expiring on*

| *31 December 1997* | *31 December 1998* | *31 December 1999* |
|---|---|---|
| Angola | China | Belgium |
| Azerbaijan | Cuba | Cape Verde |
| Burundi | Denmark | Czech Republic |
| India | Namibia | Germany |
| Japan | New Zealand* | Indonesia |
| Kenya | Russian Federation | Italy |
| Morocco | Suriname | Jamaica |
| Netherlands | Switzerland | Nicaragua |
| Norway | Turkey | Nigeria |
| Pakistan | Ukraine | Oman |
| Republic of Korea | Viet Nam | United States of America |
| Sweden | | |
| Uganda | | |
| Venezuela | | |

* New Zealand's term commenced on 1 January 1997, when it replaced Canada.

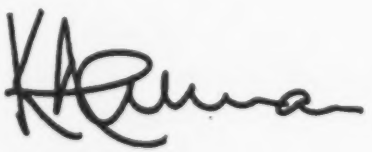
# *Foreword*

Every day, in countries all over the world, UNICEF is working hard to carry out its mission. That mission is to save children from the chronic poverty that blights lives and causes death in every part of the globe.

More than 12 million children under five will die this year from preventable diseases and malnutrition. Many millions of children die from infections and some suffer blindness for want of such a simple intervention as vitamin A capsules costing as little as 2 cents each. In a world where technologies can bounce television and radio signals off satellites and speed information through computer networks to the far reaches of the planet, it is disgraceful that millions of children lack schoolbooks, pencils, slates and chalk. Over 140 million school age girls and boys are not receiving a primary education. Many of them will grow into adulthood unable to read a simple warning label, let alone a newspaper or computer manual.

Because the survivors of this neglect will not achieve their full potential, neither will the societies of which they are part. By not providing adequate care and services to their children, these societies endanger not only economic growth but also their chances for democracy and lasting peace. If the examples of armed conflict around the globe have taught us anything, it is that stability rarely endures in a climate of extreme want and inequality. Therefore, it should be obvious that if we care about peace and security for our children and grandchildren, we must also care about the quality of life and opportunities available to them.

This concern for quality of life lies at the heart of UNICEF's mandate, which is to promote the right of every child to survival, to protection from exploitation and abuse, and to the fulfilment of his or her potential as a human being. These rights form the core of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is fast approaching universal ratification. As a result of unprecedented support for child rights, many countries have already taken concrete steps to implement them, with guidance from UNICEF and under the watchful eye of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. This is heartening news for children. The challenge now facing UNICEF and its many partners is to help governments live up to their promises so that children can claim their rights and contribute to building a more peaceful world.



*Kofi A. Annan*
*Secretary-General*
*of the United Nations*

# OVERVIEW

UNICEF/91-145/Bleza

In learning to read and write, this Bolivian girl realizes one of her basic rights.

THE YEAR 1996 — UNICEF'S 50TH YEAR serving the world's children — stands up well to comparison.

Children's survival rates in 1996 were twice those of 1946, when UNICEF was created. Immunization rates — covering 15 per cent of children or less in many parts of the world just over a decade ago — now average 80 per cent worldwide, and some countries have rates of 90 per cent and higher.

In developing countries, approximately 82 per cent of all children old enough for primary school are now enrolled; in most regions, enrolment rates are around 30 percentage points higher than they were in the 1960s.

Governments, communities and families, and certainly we at UNICEF, feel justly proud of this progress. Substantial problems remain, of course: Maternal mortality rates must be reduced, safe water and adequate sanitation are needed by all, educational and health disparities must narrow to the vanishing point. Nevertheless, real progress has been made, against some truly formidable foes.

Particularly noteworthy has been the global embrace of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, now virtually universally ratified.

The Convention is the unquestioned framework for UNICEF's activities, enabling UNICEF and all ratifying governments to meet many of the great challenges ahead. With the Convention, children's development is synonymous with the fullest attainment and protection of children's rights.

Among the events and undertakings in defence of children's rights and inspired by the Convention in 1996 was the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of

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UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy surrounded by children in Bai Yin village (China).

*"The Convention is the unquestioned framework for UNICEF's activities, enabling UNICEF and all ratifying governments to meet many of the great challenges ahead."*

— Carol Bellamy

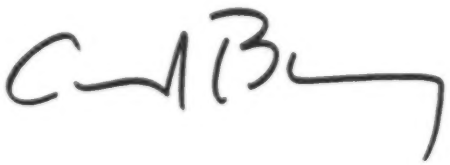
Children, held in Stockholm in August, the first-ever international gathering on this issue. Also in 1996, the UN study on the 'Impact of Armed Conflict on Children' — the results of a ground-breaking two-year international investigation — was presented to the Secretary-General and the UN General Assembly in November.

UNICEF was intimately involved in both these important efforts and, through *The State of the World's Children 1997* report, helped focus the world's attention on yet another abuse of rights: exploitative child labour.

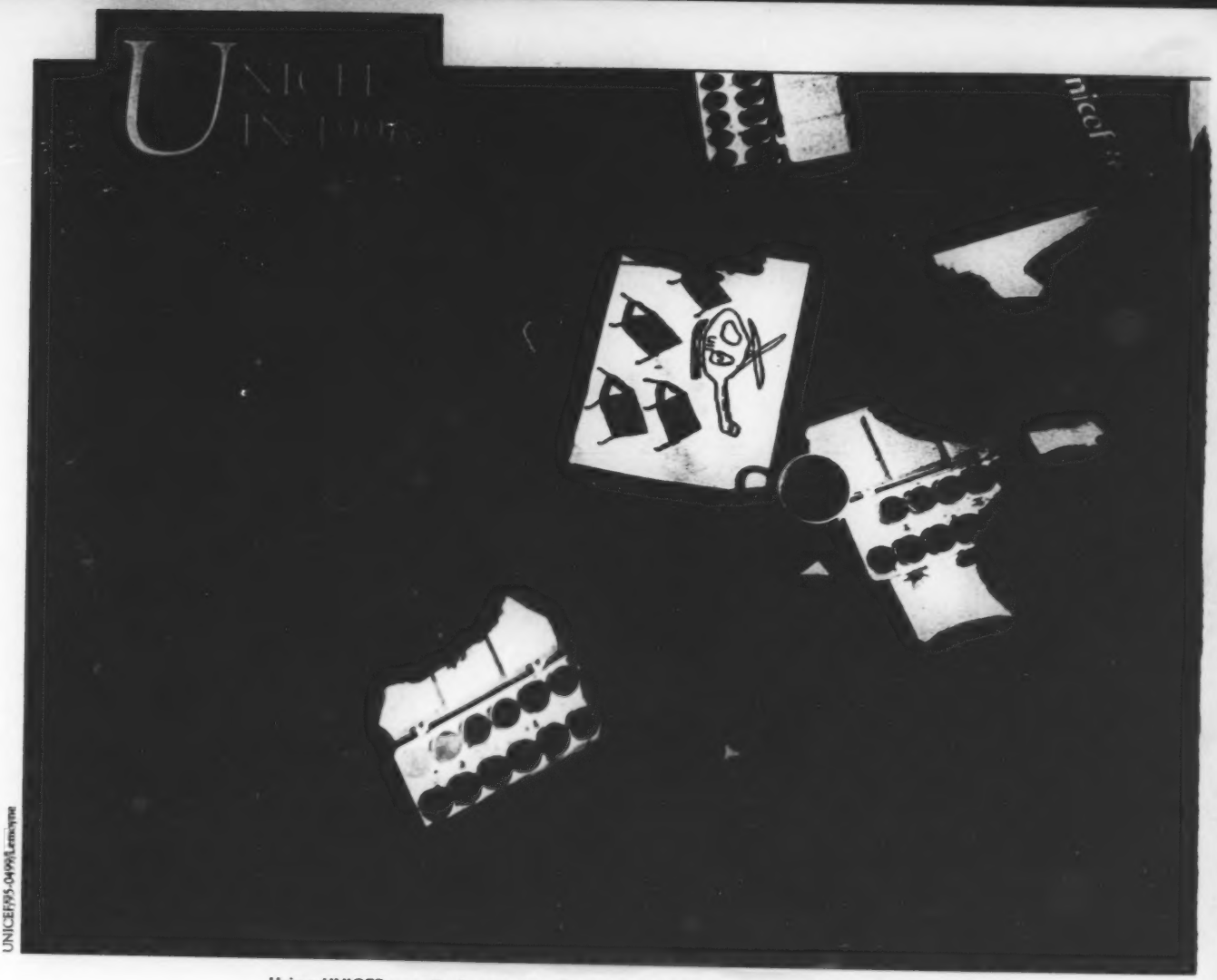
The legal impact of the Convention is being felt in many countries. The Convention has helped shape the Constitutions of Angola, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Namibia and South Africa as well as major legislation affecting children in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Jordan, Nepal and Tunisia. The Convention also propels progress in children's nutrition, in strengthening local health systems and in efforts to enrol and keep more girls in school.

Children themselves remain significant forces for change. Their participation is a vital child right and key ingredient of UNICEF's programmes. During 1996, young people participated in scores of children's parliaments and in growing numbers of projects sponsored and managed by children, including peer counselling programmes and radio shows.

We are proud of our 50th year and the distance travelled. But now is neither the time nor the place to rest, and certainly not on any laurels. It is, rather, the time to press ahead, buoyed by what has been accomplished and guided by the Convention, on behalf and with the help of children.



*Carol Bellamy*
*Executive Director*




**Using UNICEF-supplied materials, Bosnian children traumatized by war draw and paint as part of their psychosocial recovery. Receiving post-war care is a right included in article 39 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.**

## 50 YEARS FOR CHILDREN

IN 1996, UNICEF'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR, the organization celebrated its achievements in saving and improving the lives of millions of children and women. At the same time, it took stock of the many lessons learned from a half-century at the forefront of development. As a result of this assessment, UNICEF took several important measures to strengthen its work. It delineated its mission (*see 'The mission of UNICEF'*), placing the Convention on the Rights of the Child at its core; analysed progress made in achieving the year 2000 goals for children established at the 1990 World Summit for Children; took steps to decentralize its operations, making them more transparent, efficient and cost-effective; and increased opportunities for staff members to participate more fully in decision-making and management.

### A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

UNICEF's primary goal is to realize the rights of all children and women, enabling even the most disadvantaged of them to fulfil their basic needs, to receive protection from harm and abuse and to develop their full potential as human beings. These rights to protection, survival and development lie at the heart of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most widely accepted human rights treaty in history.

Now that the Convention has been ratified by nearly every country in the world, UNICEF has turned its attention to implementing the rights

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that the Convention sets forth, using them as the blueprint for its programmes. This rights-based approach is changing programme strategy in important ways. Since fulfilment of basic needs is now viewed as every child's birthright, UNICEF has adopted in its programmes a more integrated approach to meeting those needs, taking into consideration the full range of a child's rights, covering areas from health services and education to recreation and play. Programmes have begun to combine strategies for improving access to and quality of basic services with legal, policy and public education initiatives that promote and protect child rights. UNICEF has also assisted governments in revising policies and institutions, and making and enforcing laws that uphold the "best interests" of children. An integral part of this effort has been providing children with wider opportunities to express their views on issues affecting their lives and to participate in decision-making.

## ACHIEVING GOALS FOR CHILDREN

One million fewer children under five died in 1996 than in 1990 as a result of progress made by countries in achieving goals for children set forth by world leaders at the 1990 World Summit. These 27 time-bound goals, covering critical areas in human development, from immunization to micronutrient supplementation, and from primary school enrolment to safe drinking water, motivate UNICEF's work in providing basic social services. UNICEF considers provision of these services the most effective and efficient strategy to break the downward spiral of poverty, overpopulation and environmental degradation.

## PROGRESS AT MID-DECADE

In 1996, a UN mid-decade review showed that significant progress had been made towards achieving the year 2000 goals:

- Over 80 per cent of the world's children are now covered by immunization services.
- Oral rehydration therapy (ORT) is being used by almost every country in the developing world to prevent dehydration and death from diarrhoeal diseases.
- Polio and guinea worm disease are on the verge of eradication.
- Around 10,000 maternity centres are designated 'baby-friendly' as a result of their efforts to promote and encourage breastfeeding.
- Since 1990, an additional 1.5 billion people have begun to consume iodized salt. As a result, around 12 million infants each year are being protected from mental retardation.
- Overall, three in five countries are now either firmly on track to reach the overall goal of improved child survival by the year 2000 or have nearly achieved it.

## REDOUBLED EFFORTS NEEDED

Despite progress in many areas, urgent action is required in others, according to the UN's mid-decade review. Global immunization levels, though high, mask coverage as low as 13 per cent of children in some countries. And, notwithstanding the drop in under-five mortality, the reduction in child deaths has not occurred at a fast enough rate to reduce child deaths by one third of 1990 levels. Moreover, urgent action is needed to reach more complex goals relating to

## UNICEF *at a glance*

**The only UN agency devoted exclusively to children, UNICEF is governed by a 36-member Executive Board that establishes policies, reviews programmes and approves budgets for the organization. The UNICEF secretariat, headquartered in New York, oversees more than 200 offices in developing countries. There are also offices in Copenhagen, Geneva and Tokyo, and a research centre in Florence.**

**Number of countries, areas and territories with UNICEF programmes:** *161*

**Staff worldwide:** *Over 7,200*

**Percentage of professional posts held by women:** *40%*

**Number of National Committees:** *38*

**Largest programme sector, by expenditure:** *Child health*

**Top government donor (in total funds):** *United States*

**Top government donors (per capita):** *Norway, Sweden*

girls' education, maternal mortality, child malnutrition and water and sanitation. In these areas, progress has been too slow or has not kept pace with population growth. In some countries, progress on these and other vital goals has been interrupted or even reversed by armed conflict and HIV/AIDS.

## 20/20 INITIATIVE

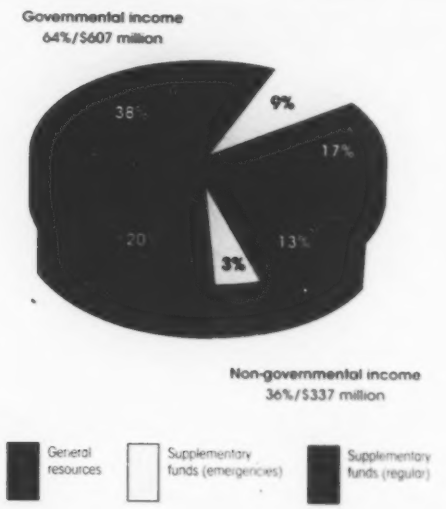
To help keep countries on track in the provision of basic social services, UNICEF has pursued implementation of the 20/20 Initiative, which calls on the governments of donor and developing countries to allot 20 per cent of their official development assistance and national budgets, respectively, to basic social services.

## LOW-COST, SUSTAINABLE INTERVENTIONS

Working with its many partners to reach the year 2000 goals, UNICEF assists governments in providing community-based services, aiming to meet the needs of children in cost-efficient ways that are locally sustainable. To do this, many programmes rely on low-cost technologies, often making the most of local resources. These technologies, many of which were pioneered by UNICEF, include ORT, mentioned above, which for a few cents can help a small child survive life-threatening diarrhoea.

UNICEF INCOME BY SOURCE 1996

**Total income: $944 million**




## MANAGEMENT REFORM

UNICEF has also looked inward to find better ways to improve the lives of children and women. Through its Management Excellence Programme (MEP), the organization has taken important measures to improve efficiency, eliminate duplication and waste, enhance the effectiveness and impact of its programmes in the field and increase collaboration with other agencies. MEP outlined a more decentralized approach to administration and at the same time encouraged wider staff participation in the process of reform. Among the changes made in 1996, UNICEF:

- Transferred several headquarters functions to regional and country offices, thereby reaffirming the centrality of country programmes in UNICEF's activities.
- Delegated increased authority to the field in areas such as programme planning and management.
- Established global, regional and country office management teams.
- Held the administrative and programme support budget at zero growth from 1994/1995 to 1996/1997, with a net reduction of $13.9 million in the headquarters' budget.
- Developed an integrated budget for headquarters and regional offices.

## UNICEF'S PARTNERS: MAKING IT ALL WORK

To ensure that these and other interventions reach the largest number of people, UNICEF relies on a wide spectrum of donors that includes governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as well as individuals. *(For a list of contributions, see page 59. See also pie chart on UNICEF income by source, this page.)* Much of this support is generated through the work of 38 National Committees, backed up by thousands of volunteers.

## NEED FOR GENERAL RESOURCES

General resources provide the core programme funds with which UNICEF responds to the needs of children and women in developing countries, as well as support for operational and advocacy functions at headquarters. These funds are apportioned according to the principles and policies established by the Executive Board.

UNICEF also receives supplementary funds that donors make available for purposes explicitly approved by the Executive Board or within

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an emergency intervention, provided UNICEF policies allow receipt of these funds.

General resources not only give UNICEF the flexibility to meet fundamental needs of children and women but also supply an assured funding base enabling medium and longer term planning. In comparison, supplementary funds, a welcome complement to general resources, are normally of shorter term and are limited in their application by the decision of the individual donor.

In 1996, due to the encouragement and response of key donors and sympathetic National Committees, UNICEF enjoyed modest success in its efforts to increase general resources, a goal endorsed by the Executive Board. UNICEF gratefully acknowledges the support of regular contributors to general resources and particularly the support of countries that increased their contributions to general resources, including Denmark, Finland, Japan, the Netherlands and Norway.

# [redacted]of UNICEF

***As one of the opening actions in its 50th anniversary year, UNICEF adopted a mission statement — the first in the organization's history. The statement was developed with the participation of staff throughout the organization, along with national partners and the Executive Board, and was made official at the January 1996 session of the Executive Board:***

**UNICEF is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.**

**UNICEF is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and strives to establish children's rights as enduring ethical principles and international standards of behaviour towards children.**

**UNICEF insists that the survival, protection and development of children are universal development imperatives that are integral to human progress.**

**UNICEF mobilizes political will and material resources to help countries, particularly developing countries, ensure a "first call for children" and to build their capacity to form appropriate policies and deliver services for children and their families.**

**UNICEF is committed to ensuring special protection for the most disadvantaged children — victims of war, disasters, extreme poverty, all forms of violence and exploitation and those with disabilities.**

**UNICEF responds in emergencies to protect the rights of children. In coordination with United Nations partners and humanitarian agencies, UNICEF makes its unique facilities for rapid response available to its partners to relieve the suffering of children and those who provide their care.**

**UNICEF is non-partisan and its cooperation is free of discrimination. In everything it does, the most disadvantaged children and the countries in greatest need have priority.**

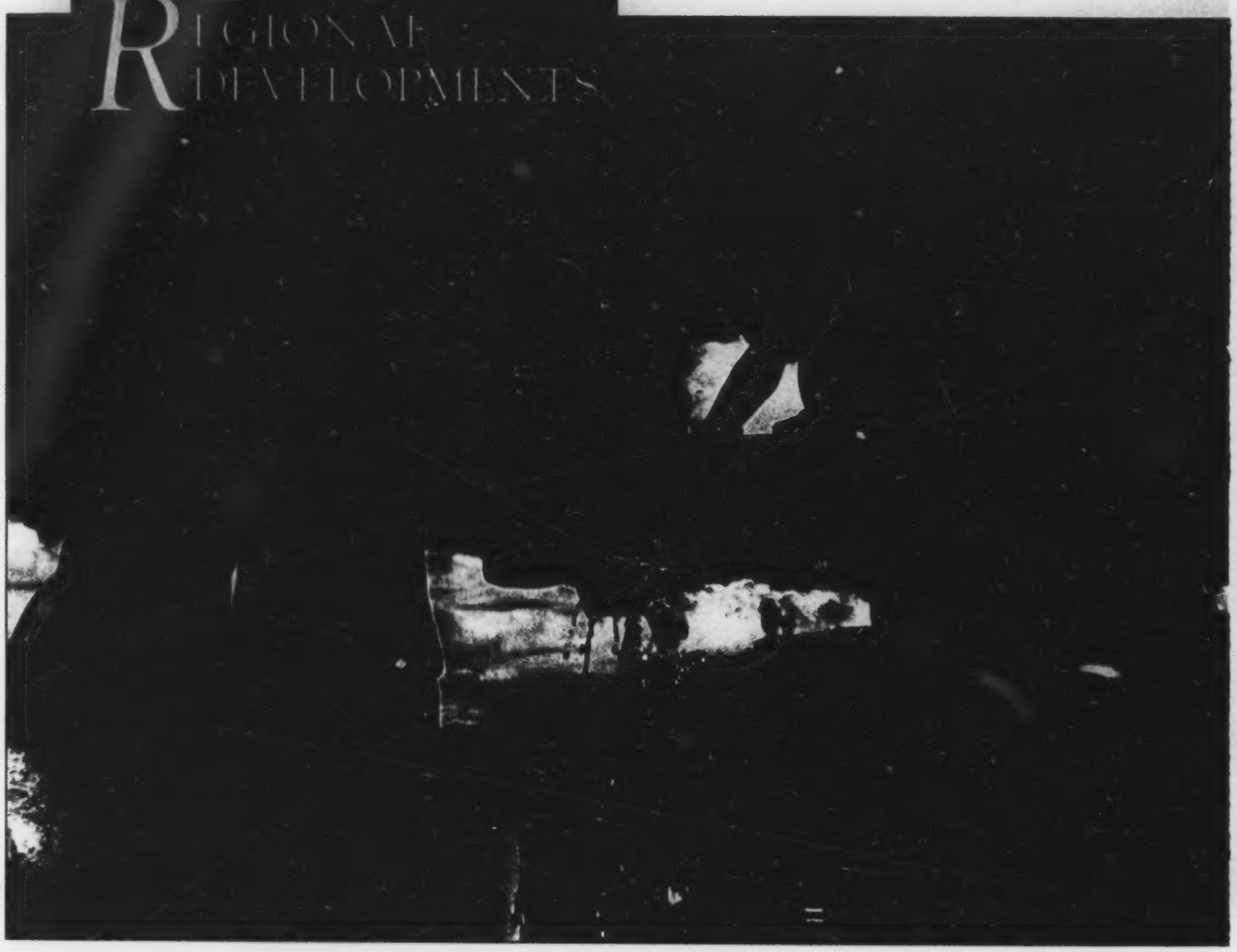
**UNICEF aims, through its country programmes, to promote the equal rights of women and girls and to support their full participation in the political, social and economic development of their communities.**

**UNICEF works with all its partners towards the attainment of the sustainable human development goals adopted by the world community and the realization of the vision of peace and social progress enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.**

*"Children disadvantaged by unmet needs and children disadvantaged by unmet rights are, at the end of the day, the same disadvantaged children."*

— *Maggie Black*, Children First: The Story of UNICEF, Past and Present, *UNICEF/Oxford University Press, 1996*

# REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS



UNICEF/John Isaac

**Ethiopian children fetch safe water, a precious commodity in many parts of the world. UNICEF supports locally managed programmes bringing safe water and other basic services to communities.**

## EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

THE MUCH-PUBLICIZED TURMOIL IN AFRICA'S Great Lakes region cast a shadow on progress made elsewhere. Armed conflict in Zaire late in the year led to the sudden return of more than 1 million refugees to Rwanda, adding enormous pressures to a country beginning recovery from the brutal civil war of 1994. Civil strife persisted in Burundi and worsened in northern Uganda, where civilians, especially children, were victims of rebel raids. Sporadic conflict also continued in parts of Somalia.

During the year, UNICEF worked with many partners — including governments, UN agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and local NGOs — to alleviate emergencies. However, long-term goals in both emergency and other countries remained focused on building the capacities of communities and governments to foster and sustain development. Key strategies included protecting the rights of children and women affected by conflict and other difficult situations; supporting efforts to provide girls and women with better opportunities in education; and helping governments and communities identify and meet basic needs.

### ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF CONFLICT:

- In Burundi and Rwanda, UNICEF helped rehabilitate basic health and education services and supply vaccines, drugs and food supplements.

◆ UNICEF assisted refugees returning to Burundi and Rwanda from the United Republic of Tanzania and Zaire and helped provide transient and conflict-affected communities with safe water, sanitation, health services, adequate nutrition and the tracing of relatives of unaccompanied children.

◆ In Tanzania, UNICEF assistance to refugees included provision of vaccines, medicines, supplementary foods and psychosocial counselling for traumatized children.

◆ In southern Somalia, a partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) provided seeds, hand tools, health supplies and transportation for some 5,000 displaced persons returning to their homes and farms.

## POSITIVE TRENDS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Armed conflict aside, economic and political trends in parts of the region gave rise to cautious optimism. Mauritius and Uganda sustained growth rates of over 5 per cent and the post-war economies of Ethiopia and Mozambique continued to revive, as did post-apartheid South Africa. To assist Mozambique's post-war recovery, UNICEF promoted local and international efforts to clear landmines around schools and health posts.

Reconstruction and development plans in this largely agricultural region were helped by the fact that harvests were good almost everywhere, with the exception of parts of East Africa late in the year. Signs of progress were also evident in the strengthened cooperation among the 12 countries of the Southern African Development Community in areas such as water management and trade promotion. Still, most nations continued to struggle with burdens of debt and low investment in their economies.

Joining the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and other partners, UNICEF worked with several governments during the year to plan and implement social programmes aimed at meeting basic needs such as health, sanitation and education:

◆ Tanzania and Uganda produced broad strategies to combat poverty that emphasize grass-roots delivery of services.

◆ Botswana and South Africa began detailed poverty analyses with advice from UNICEF and others.

◆ Madagascar made progress in health care reform and revitalization of local health services based on the Bamako Initiative's community-participation approach.

◆ To jump-start basic service programmes, Ethiopia and Malawi launched Social Action Funds that provide matching grants to community initiatives.

◆ In South Africa, President Nelson Mandela guided the launch of the country's national programme of action (NPA) for children. UNICEF

## RWANDA *promote peace*

**A group of teenagers huddles in a field on the outskirts of Kigali, Rwanda's capital. Though they seem to be playing, they are volunteering their time for a much more serious endeavour: brick-making. The mud they pack into bricks and then bake in the sun will be used to construct housing for recently returned refugees.**

**Over 1 million Rwandan refugees who had fled the country after the outbreak of civil war in 1994 were forced to return in 1996 as a result of conflict in the Great Lakes region. Many of them are poor, sick and without hope.**

**"Widows and older people don't have the strength to do their own construction," explains 15-year-old volunteer Marie Rose, who lost her father during the war and lives in Kigali with her mother and sisters.**

**Marie Rose is among 800 young Rwandans, aged 14 to 20, who have signed up for a two-week Solidarity Camp run by local government officials and NGOs. The young people are producing 65,000 bricks, enough for 30 new shelters. This small contribution to Rwanda's reconstruction represents a major step in the youths' development, as campers from different ethnic groups — some of them former refugees — learn how to accept and get along with each other.**

**"I'm working alongside people I wouldn't have made friends with otherwise," Marie Rose admits.**

**In addition to working, the youths gather in front of their tent-dormitories to play games, sing, dance and exercise. In between, they take part in workshops about HIV/AIDS, landmine awareness and national reconciliation.**

**The idea for solidarity camps in Eastern and Southern Africa comes from Uganda, where similar gatherings have promoted understanding among tribal groups. The concept was carried to Rwanda, where solidarity camps focusing on various work goals, such as planting trees and constructing houses, will be hosted in every prefecture. Four camps were held in 1996, enrolling 3,800 children, and another 10 camps are scheduled for 1997. UNICEF joined several organizations and NGOs in assisting the camps, contributing $250,000 to the project in 1996.**

Displaced Rwandan children play outside a primary school, their temporary shelter.

UNICEF/94-1125/Press



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**UNICEF-ASSISTED PROGRAMMES IN:**

Angola
Botswana
Burundi
Comoros
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Kenya
Lesotho
Madagascar
Malawi
Mauritius
Mozambique
Namibia
Rwanda
Sao Tome and Principe
Seychelles*
Somalia
South Africa
Swaziland
Tanzania
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe

* through regional funds.

supported the NPA steering committee in setting national goals for children and in giving provinces a more active role in achieving them.

## COMMUNITIES PLAY A STRONGER ROLE

A number of countries in the region have begun to streamline basic services by shifting responsibility for the planning and maintenance of these services from central to local authorities. This decentralized approach has the potential to tailor programmes more closely to the needs of communities and strengthen accountability:

- In Uganda, where 12 out of 39 districts have finalized plans of action for children and another 15 have drafted their plans, the Government provided grants directly to districts, mainly for health and education. In 1996, UNICEF worked with the World Bank in Uganda to assess the effectiveness of district-level spending on health and education and recommended ways this approach could better benefit the poor.
- Cost savings have provided a bonus to Zambia's community-managed and district-facilitated programmes that since 1995 have brought safe water and sanitation to 10 districts most afflicted by drought and water-borne disease. By the end of 1996, with UNICEF assistance, some 500 village management committees had been established and 150 villagers had been trained in handpump installation and repair, latrine construction and hygiene education. Though districts funded initial construction, the programme is largely self-financed: Communities purchase their own spare parts for pumps and pay directly for repairs. Among other savings, the new programme brought a 30 per cent reduction in the average cost of new boreholes in the last two years.
- In Ethiopia and Uganda, UNICEF helped the Governments test ways of involving community members more closely in the planning of social services.

## PROGRESS ON CHILD RIGHTS

All countries in the region have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and eight have submitted their first reports on implementation of the Convention to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. With UNICEF assistance, Kenya and Rwanda joined several countries developing new legislation to uphold and enforce children's rights. To promote the rights of children to express their views and participate in decisions affecting their lives, Ethiopia's House of Representatives convened its first-ever children's parliament, in which children from all parts of the country presented lawmakers with their views on rights and education.

In Kigali, this centre for unaccompanied children tries to reunite families separated by civil strife.

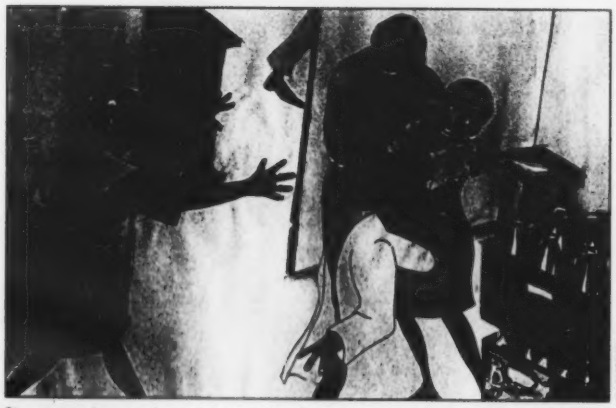
# ra: A role model for girls

**In 1996, a young girl was born who has the potential to act as a catalyst for social change. Her name is Sara, and she was conceived in 10 sub-Saharan countries.**

**Sara is a cartoon character, the product of 20 months of work involving over 150 writers, artists and researchers as well as 5,000 people consulted in villages and cities. Like Meena, a younger character in a popular educational series in South Asia, Sara is the star of a major multimedia communication initiative. It was launched by UNICEF in Eastern and Southern Africa in September 1996.**

**An adolescent girl between 13 and 15 years old, Sara emerges as an exciting heroine for girls. With her brother, Juma, her girlfriend, Amina, and her pet monkey, Zingo, she engages in adventures that capture the imagination of both children and parents.**

**In making important choices, such as whether or not to stay in school or how best to deal with difficult adults, Sara and her friends generate discussions on key issues affecting their peers. At the same time, the episodes teach children, especially girls, essential life skills, including effective communication, negotiation and problem-solving.**



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The popular cartoon character Sara, caught in family conflict, insists on her rights.

**These skills and role models are urgently needed by girls as they make the difficult transition to adulthood, in Africa and elsewhere. Raised in societies whose values often favour the rights and well-being of boys, many girls are forced from a very young age to do a disproportionate share of household work or take on paid jobs at the expense of their schooling. Low school enrolment, high drop-out rates, early marriage, teenage pregnancy and heightened susceptibility to HIV/AIDS are just a few of the problems caused or made worse by girls' low self-esteem and inadequate education and life skills.**

**An animated film series is the flagship of the Sara initiative, complemented by equally vital media that include radio programmes, comic books, story books, audio cassettes, posters and guides. The first episode, 'The Special Gift', tells how Sara overcomes all odds to stay in school. Future stories will cover topics such as HIV/AIDS, the unequal workloads of boys and girls, teenage pregnancy, sexual abuse and early marriage. The series will be popularized through joint efforts with 15 participating countries in the region, as well as NGOs and local media. The BBC Africa Service began broadcasting a five-language Sara series during the year.**

Country programmes are placing more emphasis on rights of care and protection for children, including children who live and work on the street or who are affected by violence and HIV/AIDS. Other priorities include protection for children in hazardous employment or in conflict with the law. In Rwanda, for instance, UNICEF worked with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Government to help children accused of war-related crimes get legal advice and education.

Increasing attention is also being paid to the health needs and rights of adolescents. A broad range of communication projects targeted issues such as HIV/AIDS prevention and female genital mutilation (FGM). These programmes involve not only disseminating information but also strengthening the life skills of adolescents, which include making informed decisions and negotiating agreements in relationships.

In Ethiopia, over 38,000 secondary school students expressed their opinions and concerns

UNICEF/94-1248/Pirozzi

Displaced by Mozambique's civil war, which ended in 1992, 10-year-old Tecla has returned to her native village and attends a UNICEF-assisted community school.

about FGM, as part of awareness-raising workshops sponsored in 1996 by the UNICEF-assisted National Committee on Traditional Practices.

In Malawi, teenagers launched a popular national radio programme, *Straight Talk*, in which they give advice and health messages to their peers, including members of over 1,000 AIDS-prevention clubs. Begun in 1996 by Youth Arm Organization, a local NGO, the programme receives technical and training support from UNICEF and the Malawi Broadcasting Company.

In addition to focusing on adolescents, UNICEF helps mobilize families and communities to support major regional health initiatives, such as salt iodization and polio eradication. Many UNICEF offices are providing communication, supply and technical support to the three-year 'Kick polio out of Africa' campaign launched in 1996 by UN agencies and NGOs in an effort to immunize an estimated 50 million African children by the year 2000.

To help achieve these and other year 2000 goals for children, UNICEF is forging more links with the private sector. One promising link is the Private Sector Initiative, launched in Botswana in 1996, which is mobilizing local business support for the national programme of action for children at a time when government resources are becoming scarce. UNICEF acts as an intermediary, helping to match companies' interests and resources with the Government's social action priorities. So far, private funds and in-kind services valued at several hundred thousand dollars have been channelled into more than 15 projects, ranging from the distribution of immunization posters to the founding of a national youth centre and road safety school.

## PRIMARY EDUCATION: A KEY GOAL

To promote children's right to education, the Eastern and Southern Africa region is helping governments expand and upgrade primary education, incorporating innovative approaches responsive to local needs. New approaches encourage community participation in school planning and management and promote a stronger role for parents in their children's education. In addition to providing funds and training, UNICEF helps governments to design innovative teaching methods and update textbooks:

- In Madagascar, with the support of UNICEF, over 200 communities so far have drawn up school-improvement contracts, or *dinas*. In signing *dinas*, local leaders and school-committee members agree to upgrade and monitor their local school and to carry out a plan of action proposed by the village.
- In Uganda, a UNICEF-assisted school project, Complementary Opportunities for Primary Education (COPE), has set up one- and two-room 'complementary' schools benefiting 3,200 children in areas with limited access to conventional schools. Uganda's Government-run COPE schools offer small classes, provide basic learning materials and recruit teachers locally. Moreover, COPE's condensed learning cycles are a boon to older students, who can progress through their course of study more rapidly.

These efforts complement the Government's recent education reforms, which include offering free tuition to families sending up to four children to school.

The African Girls' Education Initiative, launched in 1996, will expand education opportunities for girls in 19 African countries. The initiative is funded generously by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Government of Norway.

# WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

POVERTY CONTINUES TO BE THE SILENT KILLER of children in one of the least developed regions of the world. In six countries, more than one fifth of the children die before age five. In 15 countries, between 800 and 1,800 mothers die each year of pregnancy- or birth-related complications for every 100,000 live births. These are some of the highest mortality rates in the world. Yet many of the personal tragedies they represent could be prevented.

Though the region has low income, the poor health of many children and women is not merely the result of inadequate resources. The region is enjoying slow but steady economic growth in all but two countries. The benefits, however, are not well distributed and rarely reach the poor. And several problems chip away at budgets and the political will to make change: heavy payments on foreign debt that often exceed social spending; rapid population growth, which outstrips economic growth and lowers per capita income every year; and armed conflict, which takes up ever greater resources, as does the destruction that follows in its wake.

One of UNICEF's highest priorities globally is to work with African nations in building solid foundations for peace, democracy and equitable development, based first and foremost on the rights of children. UNICEF's role in this endeavour, though, is less provider than catalyst — it aims to help communities achieve the means and willingness to help themselves.

## BAMAKO INITIATIVE

One of the most important and successful ways communities are helping themselves is through participation in the Bamako Initiative. Adopted by African ministers of health in 1987, the Bamako Initiative brings affordable health care to rural and some urban communities. With the support of UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partners, it enables communities to identify local needs and assume more control in managing and financing basic health care.

Governments and donors generally provide the equipment, drugs, vaccines, salaries and training of health workers required to deliver a basic package of integrated services to Bamako Initiative health centres. Communities pay for at least part of the drugs and services they use, and many have taken over the purchase and management of drug supplies. The fees go into a revolving fund that can buy more supplies and services or go towards other community projects. Today, as a result of strong community involvement, more than 80 per cent of Bamako Initiative health centres in the region self-finance their operating costs (excluding salaries and vaccines).

## HEALTH GAINS

Largely through the Bamako Initiative and similar community-based programmes, many countries were able to make substantive progress in achieving several mid-decade and year 2000 goals for children:

- Immunization: In around two thirds of the countries, 60 per cent of children are vaccinated against tuberculosis. Almost half of the region's countries provide more than 60 per cent of their children with immunization against diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus, while only a third manage this level of immunization against polio and measles. These figures represent coverage rates for the region lower than those achieved in 1990 at the end of the five-year universal child immunization campaign.

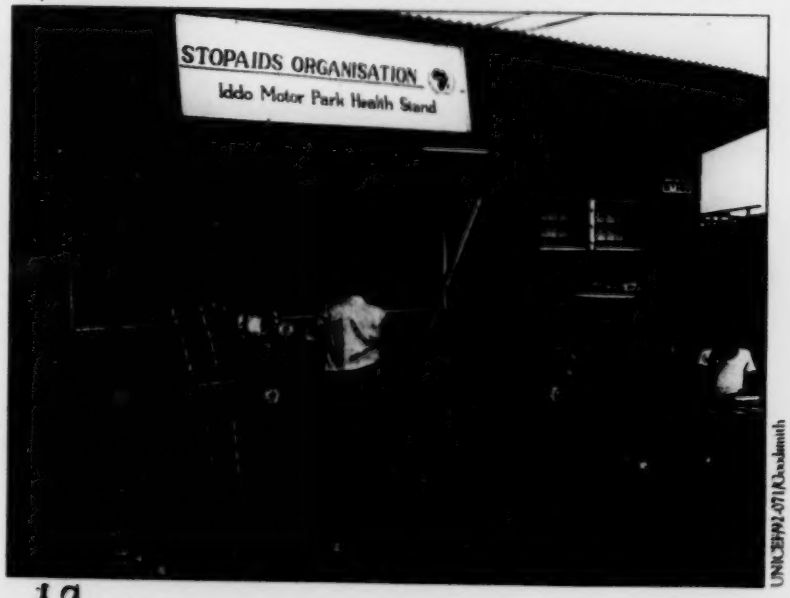
Benin and Guinea increased measles coverage from around 10 per cent of children in 1985 to around 70 per cent today. Yet at the same time, Gabon, Liberia and Zaire reduced this coverage by 10 to 20 per cent. Even where coverage is

**UNICEF-ASSISTED PROGRAMMES IN:**

Benin
Burkina Faso
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Equatorial Guinea
Gabon
Gambia
Ghana
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Liberia
Mali
Mauritania
Niger
Nigeria
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Togo
Zaire

13

Part of a network of Bamako Initiative health centres, this health stand in Nigeria dispenses medications as well as AIDS-awareness and education kits.




UNICEF/92-0718/Beckmith

BURKINA FASO

# ...come in satellite schools

**Ask how most girls spend their days in a typical Burkina Faso village and chances are good that they are not studying. But in the south-western village of Nofesso, girls comprise over 60 per cent of students in the village's new school.**

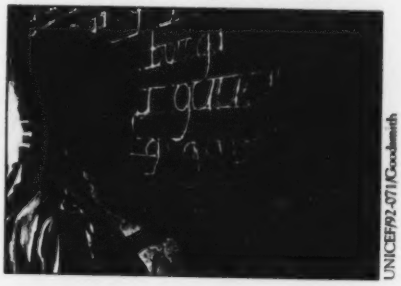
**This high attendance rate is almost unheard of in Burkina Faso, where about 75 per cent of girls do not receive primary education, compared with 62 per cent of boys. In 1996, the Government embarked on a pilot project to improve school access and academic performance for both boys and girls. The project has, among other measures, set up 30 'satellite schools' for children seven to nine years old in 10 provinces suffering from low enrolment and high drop-out rates.**

**Satellite schools, located less than three kilometres from formal primary schools, offer the same basic classes and schedule. But unlike conventional schools, these centres teach first grade in the local language, switching to French (the national language) later on. In addition to hygiene education, they also offer instruction in life skills that foster self-esteem and better communication. Classes at these schools are much smaller, and girls make up at least half the students.**

**Most important to the project's success are parents, who manage the schools through committees elected by the village. In Nofesso village, for example, parents donated the land for the school and helped plan and construct classrooms, latrines, vegetable gardens and sports grounds. They also help pay for travel expenses and food for teachers, who are selected by the community but are trained and paid by the Government. Parents keep close watch over the children, monitoring their attendance, academic performance and newly learned hygiene practices. UNICEF works alongside several donors and NGOs to assist the project, providing funds and technical support for supervision and evaluation.**

**Nofesso's students like school: By the end of 1996, only 1 out of 40 had dropped out. Similarly low drop-out rates are found in all 30 satellite schools — less than 3 per cent, compared with 15 per cent at conventional schools. Results like these impress villagers. Nofesso's chief, for one, proclaims that their satellite school is "our most precious property."**

New incentives increase prospects for greater enrolment of girls in school.



UNICEF/92-071/Goodsmith

good, many challenges remain in reaching remote areas and in helping families bring their children back for follow-up vaccines.

- Guinea worm disease eradication: In just 10 years (1986 to 1996), the region reduced the number of cases from 3 million to a little over 30,000. Future efforts need to target the remaining population and strengthen prevention. To accomplish this, guinea worm eradication is linked to programmes promoting oral rehydration therapy (ORT), better hygiene, the reduction of malnutrition and prevention of malaria.
- Iodine deficiency disorders: Every country in the region has passed or is drafting laws requiring salt iodization to prevent goitre, mental impairment and other iodine deficiency disorders(IDD). In Cameroon and Nigeria, 95 per cent of table salt is already iodized.

## EDUCATION FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN

Efforts to improve access to education presented mixed results in the region. In Central Africa, the numbers of children enrolling in primary school have stagnated or fallen. In West Africa, however, the numbers have risen, especially for girls.

The once-bleak education prospects for girls have brightened recently as a result of several new initiatives aimed at making school a more inviting, rewarding place. Ten countries in the region (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal) will benefit from the Girls' Education Initiative launched this year in 19 African countries.

UNICEF, among other organizations, assisted governments in setting up several programmes that will benefit girls. Senegal created incentives for girls to attend school, including the distribution of free uniforms. Burkina Faso and Mali made plans to locate schools near communities so that girls can stay close to home. Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Guinea began setting up non-formal education centres to target girls who either have never been to school or have dropped out.

Several programmes carried out in 1996 aimed to raise girls' self-esteem, which is crucial to their success. In 1995 and 1996, Guinea removed gender stereotypes from primary school textbooks and other teaching materials. Benin trained teachers to adopt more positive attitudes and

behaviour towards girls and set up a girls' peer support network.

Ghana gave special attention to girls' education in a 1996 action plan to implement the Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education project, adopted in 1995. The project aims to upgrade teaching and evaluation of students and redress imbalances in enrolment that exist between girls and boys and among areas (40 per cent in the three northern areas, compared with around 70 per cent in the country as a whole). In 1996, a gender-sensitive curriculum was developed and new policies were introduced to enhance teacher recruitment, training and motivation.

Informal education, with emphasis on small-business management and resource utilization, was an important component of Ghana's Credit with Education for Women project, which in 1996 reached 2,500 women with 88 new credit and savings associations.

## WOMEN MANAGE SAFE WATER

One reason why so many of the region's children die is because safe water and adequate sanitation are in short supply. Diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases are rife throughout the region, and in 1996, epidemics of cholera and meningitis swept over the Sahel.

Safe water can be expensive, especially in poor urban areas. Carted into slum areas by private vendors, water can drain more from a family's budget than food. Increasingly, UNICEF is helping communities set up their own cooperatives to transport and sell water. In Nouakchott (Mauritania), women's cooperatives set up during the year managed to cut water costs to a third of their previous level and increase household water consumption by 40 per cent among the 200 participating households. The cooperatives manage the systems, recover recurrent costs and organize joint activities, including health and hygiene education. UNICEF assists with capital investments and building local capacity to manage the programme.

## HIV/AIDS

The epidemic hit hardest at Eastern and Southern Africa, but it is growing in this region as well. In Côte d'Ivoire, the HIV/AIDS regional epicentre, HIV prevalence is found among 10 to 12 per cent of the population. Unfortunately, many efforts to stem the outbreak so far have been met with fear, stigma or denial of the problem. And not enough attention has been paid to one-on-one communication among peers, especially youths.

UNICEF/93-1924/Tenzin

In a Niger village, women fill their pots with water drawn from a well.

To combat HIV/AIDS, UNICEF assists programmes that combine communication for behavioural change and prevention with better medical treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, a growing problem:

- In several countries, including the Central African Republic and Zaire, UNICEF worked with WHO, UNFPA and donors to support the development of HIV/AIDS-prevention curricula for schools.
- In Ghana, UNICEF supported programmes that introduced life skills, including decision-making and conflict resolution, into primary and secondary schools.
- In Côte d'Ivoire, UNICEF worked with the International Catholic Child Bureau to set up peer education programmes among street children.

## CHILDREN AND WAR

In a region profoundly affected by armed conflict, UNICEF joined the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in sponsoring the first African children's mini-summit, held in Yaounde in July 1996 in connection with the OAU Summit. At the two-day mini-summit, 100 children from 10 countries affected by conflict discussed UNICEF's Anti-war Agenda and presented government officials with proposals for action. The need for concerted action was underscored by severe conflict in several areas:

- During fighting in Liberia, the UNICEF office was looted and its staff evacuated. When the fighting calmed, UNICEF re-established more limited operations, providing assistance with basic

services and the demobilization of child soldiers.

- In the Central African Republic, military mutinies twice disrupted UNICEF programmes. Many activities were suspended and staff relocated. At the year's end, the future of operations was uncertain.
- Armed conflict in eastern Zaire caused massive chaos and dislocation in the Great Lakes region, especially among the UNICEF-assisted camps that teemed with refugees from conflicts in Rwanda and Burundi (*see also 'Eastern and Southern Africa'*).

Yet cease-fires have prepared the way for peace in other areas:

- Presidential elections in Sierra Leone spurred a peace agreement in November. UNICEF provided the country with emergency assistance, reunification and resettlement of families, psychosocial counselling for children and the rehabilitation of services, such as primary education and water and sanitation.
- Chad also held presidential elections during the year and worked with UNICEF on plans to withdraw child soldiers from the army and reintegrate them into civilian life.
- Both Mali and Niger signed peace agreements with former rebels and began development projects in areas damaged by fighting.

To help meet the needs of children and women in fast-deteriorating situations, UNICEF in 1996 strengthened its field office capacity to forecast emergencies by establishing easily accessible indicators to analyse socio-economic and political conditions in countries, many of which are becoming increasingly tense and unstable.

## WEST AFRICA

# ...mmunization with affordable vaccines

The region has greatly expanded immunization coverage over the last decade. Yet many children still slip through the net — over 40 per cent of children in sub-Saharan Africa have not been fully vaccinated. How can governments reach these children? What steps can they take to encourage families to complete the full schedule of vaccines? And how can they sustain hard-won support for immunization? One answer to these questions is to keep vaccines affordable, a central aim of two initiatives at the heart of health care delivery in West and Central Africa.

Community-managed health care reduces costs, making vaccines affordable.

UNICEF/C-4/Watson

The Bamako Initiative, launched by African health ministers in 1987, supports community-managed health centres that provide affordable vaccines as part of a low-cost basic health services package. At these centres, preventive care is free, as is all health care for those too poor to pay. For vaccines, as well as curative drugs and services, community members pay prices far lower than those charged by the private health care system. The fees go into a fund that helps communities cover most operating costs. As a result of strong community involvement, many Bamako Initiative health centres, 80 per cent of which are self-sustaining, have cut vaccination costs in half.

Until recently, governments in the region have been almost totally reliant on external support for the provision of vaccines to Bamako Initiative and other community-based centres. Now, however, with the support of the European Union (EU), UNICEF and other organizations, many governments in the region have begun paying 100 per cent of vaccine costs out of their own budgets. In order to pay on better terms and with simpler procedures, they joined the Vaccine Independence Initiative, a UNICEF programme launched worldwide in 1992. The initiative grew out of the recognition that governments must finance their own vaccines in order to sustain their Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), especially as new, and sometimes more costly, vaccines, such as the hepatitis B antigen, become available.

The vaccine initiative has been adopted by many countries around the world, including Ghana from the West and Central Africa region. In 1996, Ghana was joined by seven countries in the region: Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal. The seven countries, all of which receive EU economic assistance, have agreed to pay for EPI costs out of their budgets and make EPI a priority in government spending. To help them cover costs, UNICEF sells them vaccines at its usual low price.

Through the Vaccine Independence Initiative, governments can pay for vaccines in local currency rather than in dollars or in other 'hard' currency that can be difficult to obtain. The governments can also pay upon receipt instead of in advance, which is the form of payment required for all those not part of the initiative. These payment terms are made possible by a fund financed by UNICEF, USAID and the Netherlands.

# MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

CHILDREN'S NEEDS IN MUCH OF THE Middle East and North Africa are hostage to military budgets and poverty. The region devotes a higher proportion of its national budgets to defence than any other region. One third of its children are directly affected by war or civil strife. This turmoil disrupts food production, health services, water and sanitation systems and schooling, adding to the burdens of growing numbers of people already living in poverty. Yet, with the populations' needs at some of their highest levels ever, government spending on the poor in 1996 either stagnated or declined.

Development of this diverse region — where relatively wealthy nations share borders with poorer neighbours — is undermined by some of the world's fastest-growing populations, increasing at an average of 3 per cent a year. Hunger grows steadily in many countries, primed by acute shortages of water and arable land and an over-reliance on imported food.

Contradicting the region's oil-rich image, most countries, including several Persian Gulf States (Iran, Iraq, Oman), are heavily in debt. In some countries, debts deepened sharply as a result of the Persian Gulf war, which cost the region $165.8 billion in lost oil revenues, trade and tourism, in addition to incalculable human suffering.

Most countries (Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen, Persian Gulf States) are in the process of restructuring and privatizing their economies under the guidance of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). But even with these reforms they are having difficulty attracting the capital investment needed to spur economic growth.

UNICEF's goals are to help governments implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to fulfil child survival and development goals established by world leaders at the 1990 World Summit for Children. One of the region's greatest challenges is to provide children with care and protection during and after armed conflict, especially when fighting disrupts supplies and services or when political factions take control of vast territories. Another challenge is to ensure that girls' rights to equality are taken seriously by families, communities and governments.

All countries in the region have ratified the Convention (endorsed by the Palestinian Authority in 1996), and nine countries have submitted their reports on measures they have taken to implement it. Nine have also established special task forces or councils for children (Egypt,

**UNICEF-ASSISTED PROGRAMMES IN:**

Algeria
Bahrain*
Djibouti
Egypt
Iran
Iraq
Jordan
Kuwait*
Lebanon
Libya*
Morocco
Oman
Qatar*
Sudan
Syria
Tunisia
United Arab Emirates*
West Bank and Gaza
Yemen

* through regional funds.

17

UNICEF/C7035/Sprague

Tunisian women gather to hear a community worker talk about proper nutrition and ORT (oral rehydration therapy).

## TUNISIA

# ...ts into the future

**Now that Tunisia has met many of the child survival goals set at the 1990 World Summit for Children, the Government is turning its attention to measures that will enhance children's quality of life.**

**With UNICEF assistance, the Government has embarked on an ambitious plan to establish a 'culture' of child rights in the country. The goal is to transform attitudes and behaviour relating to children in schools, community centres, local governments, courtrooms, police stations, homes and just about everywhere a child's right to protection, participation and "full and harmonious development" needs acceptance.**

**Tunisia's 1997-2000 Plan of Operations will strengthen the existing rights-awareness programme, enlisting active support from every corner of society. Among other measures, child rights will be incorporated into law school curricula. UNICEF has assisted Tunisia's plan in many ways, including by developing teaching materials and new strategies for bringing these rights alive in the classroom and informal centres. Since 1994, UNICEF has distributed the booklet 'Our Rights' to 4,000 schools serving 1.5 million children.**

**Hand in hand with these efforts is a new campaign to uphold children's rights to protection from abuse, violence, hazardous labour and sexual exploitation. On 11 January 1996, Tunisia adopted a Child Protection Code. Its 123 measures emphasize prevention, working with families and keeping the "best interests" of the child uppermost. The Code provides special safeguards for children in conflict with the law, requiring, among other measures, that their legal cases be heard in juvenile courts and presided over by specially trained judges.**

**Implementing the Code is a corps of 23 child protection delegates — one for each governorate. These delegates are being trained, with UNICEF assistance, to identify children in need and devise remedial action in collaboration with the children's families. But for children in conflict with the law, the best provision of all is that they themselves are consulted. In this way, they exercise their fundamental rights to freely express their opinions and make their voices heard in administrative and judicial matters affecting their lives.**

Students learn about child rights as part of their school curriculum.

UNICEF/90-0134/Sprague



Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Sudan, Syria, Yemen).

## EDUCATION

Most countries have already achieved or exceeded the year 2000 goals for education, which means that at least 80 per cent of their primary school age children have reached grade 5. Enrolment is up as well: Four out of five school age children in the region are now in school.

Yet high enrolment rates do not necessarily translate into high rates of achievement for children. Persistent problems include low quality of materials and curricula, poor teacher training, insufficient understanding of material being taught, and cultural ideas and practices that favour the success of boys. These factors combine to force many children, especially girls, to drop out early.

To increase girls' enrolment and achievement in school, Egypt, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen set up innovative, community-based programmes, many of which rely on non-formal schooling centres set up close to girls' homes. Examples are Egypt's Community Schools Project, Morocco's Promotion of Rural Girls' Education Campaign, Sudan's Mobile Schools for Nomads *(see panel)*, Tunisia's Integrated School Development Project in El Kef and Yemen's Hamlet Schools for Girls Initiative. Yemen began a UNICEF-assisted training programme for female teachers in 1989, which reached 600 teachers in 1996.

## THE RIGHTS OF GIRLS AND WOMEN

One indicator of the low priority given to the rights of females is the fact that only 9 out of 19 countries in the region have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and many of those countries attached reservations.

As part of a regional effort to spread awareness of the rights of girls and women, UNICEF will use a grant provided by the Global Swiss Fund in 1996 to incorporate teaching about the Convention on the Rights of the Child and CEDAW into the curricula of law schools in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia.

## MICROCREDIT FOR WOMEN

One way to promote the rights of girls and women is to help them obtain the financial resources and skills to earn money and become more active in community development.

In Egypt, a UNICEF-supported credit programme for women, based on the highly successful Grameen Bank model in Bangladesh, had provided credit to a total of 4,000 women by the end of 1996, with 1,000 new loans given out during the year. Women use the loans — and their new skills — to purchase start-up equipment and inventory for small businesses, ranging from furniture-making to livestock-raising. They also receive training in leadership, group problem-solving and issues such as health care and hygiene. Several partners, including Egypt's Nasser Bank, have agreed to expand the loan programme into new areas.

## SAFE MOTHERHOOD AND CHILD SURVIVAL

Many women die each year from complications associated with pregnancy and childbirth. Regionally, around 323 girls and women die for every 100,000 births. Many of these deaths are preventable through early diagnosis and fast remedial action.

To help reduce this high mortality rate, which varies greatly from country to country, UNICEF broadened its approach to safe motherhood to incorporate human rights, communication, education and gender programmes, with a special focus on the rights and needs of adolescents.

As part of this approach, the region upgraded the training of midwives, health care workers and, in some areas, skilled birth attendants. In Iraq, 1,500 health workers and midwives received training in how to identify high-risk pregnancies and make timely referrals to clinics and hospitals. Working with the Ministry of Health, UNICEF helped set up committees of experts in all provinces to supervise hospitals, health centres and midwives, and to analyse the causes of every reported maternal and neonatal death. This supervisory project covers close to a million people.

In Yemen, which has one of the highest maternal death rates in the world (1,400 per 100,000 births), the Ministry of Health launched a five-year plan to upgrade the skills of 4,000 community midwives and strengthen local health services for women, with funding and technical support from UNICEF and other organizations.

UNICEF/92-181/Goodsmith

Morocco is one of the countries in the region that will include the rights of children and women in its law school curricula.

## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

For most countries, immunization rates in 1996 are substantially higher than in 1990. Polio immunization reached 87 per cent of children, up from 79 per cent in 1990. Measles coverage increased from 70 to 86 per cent in this same period. No polio cases have been reported in the past two years in Jordan, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Tunisia and the West Bank and Gaza.

Most countries are assuming the costs of

SUDAN

# ...t move with the seasons

When the rains come and turn savannahs into swamps, the nomads move north. When the dry winds come, they head south again. These livestock herders of western Sudan are part of nomadic groups that make up nearly 10 per cent of the country's 28 million people. Lately, along with their belongings, they are packing special tents, chalkboards, slates, textbooks and solar lamps — the basics of mobile schools educating 12,000 nomadic children in grades 1 through 4.

Nomadic peoples worked hard to get schooling for their children, especially after the terrible droughts of the late 1980s made them realize the value of expanding their children's skills. Prior to 1993/1994, when the mobile school project was launched, only 10 per cent of nomadic boys and less than 5 per cent of girls went to school. Now, about 13 per cent of nomadic students are getting an education in the six states that make up the Darfur and Kordofan regions, the area covered so far. Nearly 38 per cent of the students are girls, and around 12 per cent of the teachers are women.

"For the first time ever, nomadic girls are in the classroom in large numbers," says Dr. Hamid El Bashir, assistant programme officer for UNICEF. "This represents a dramatic step in reducing the gap between girls and boys and the high rates of female illiteracy."

Hayat, 12, is studying for the first time and wants to become a nomadic teacher. Her nine-year-old sister, Ummahalen, dreams of being an accountant. Both Hayat and Ummahalen study in a multigrade class taught by a teacher who travels with the group and manages the school. Since schedules are flexible, the girls can still help out at home. After fourth grade, they will probably join other girls and boys in attending a conventional school with boarding facilities. This reintegration process is still being planned.

The project, which opened 126 new schools in 1996, receives tents, textbooks, school supplies, teacher training, vehicles and funds totalling around $100,000 a year from UNICEF. The school tents, provided by UNICEF, are expensive, and plans are set to replace them with tents and other simple structures manufactured by local communities.

Teachers' salaries, which take the form of goats, sheep, cows or camels, are paid by the community, as are other incentives, including food and lodging. Benefits are so good, in fact, that qualified teachers are flocking to the programme. Beginning in 1996/1997, the programme will expand to include adult education.

procuring their own vaccines. Several have added relatively new vaccines such as HBV (hepatitis B virus), MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) and Hib (*Haemophilus influenzae* type B) to their immunization programmes.

Micronutrients are receiving more attention in children's health. To prevent iodine deficiency disorders, iodized salt is now widely available in 14 countries. With guidance from UNICEF and WHO, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Oman and Saudi Arabia pursued plans to fortify wheat with iron as a way to combat iron-deficiency anaemia.

Vitamin A supplements became a part of primary health care and nutrition programmes in Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Oman, Sudan and the West Bank and Gaza. In 1996, Sudan reached 4.5 million children under two years old with vitamin A supplements.

## EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

In the region's several emergency countries, including Iraq and Sudan, UNICEF helps provide communities with the means to operate and maintain programmes covering health, nutrition, water and sanitation and primary education.

In Iraq, a country devastated by the Persian Gulf war and sanctions, UNICEF provided materials, funds and technical and training support to programmes implemented mostly through NGOs.

In northern Iraq in 1996, these programmes provided, among other assistance, safe water supply systems to over 60,000 people, sanitation systems for over 30,000 people, and handpumps and wells for nearly 6,000 people. Over 1,000 representatives from 416 villages received training in how to manage and maintain these systems, and 363 villages received maintenance tool kits. In addition, UNICEF provided materials to restore the water supply and sanitation systems in 51 northern schools, serving over 20,000 children.

In Sudan, UNICEF continues to provide strong support to Operation Lifeline Sudan, one of the main conduits of humanitarian aid to the population in the south. To help war-affected children regain a sense of normalcy, UNICEF in 1996 provided basic education materials for over 2,200 schools serving 450,000 children.

Psychosocial counselling for children was given major support during the year with the opening in July of a Centre for Child Trauma, in Juba. The research, training and coordination centre was constructed with funds raised by Goodwill Ambassador Tetsuko Kuroyanagi, and assistance from the state government (Bahr El Jebel) and the Austrian Committee for UNICEF.

# EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

THE PEOPLE OF EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC are finding that economic success can be a double-edged sword, especially when it comes to realizing the rights of the region's children. On the one hand, economic growth has increased resources that can be channelled into programmes that fulfil children's rights. The rise of a relatively affluent middle class, combined with an increasingly active media, has pushed awareness of social and political issues to a new high in some countries.

On the other hand, rapid development has tended to widen the gap between rich and poor and to weaken the traditional social fabric. Moreover, in many cases, the pressure of economic reform has shoved basic social services to the sidelines of public sector funding. Even in countries such as China and Indonesia, where overall poverty levels have been reduced, large numbers of children remain poor and marginalized. And millions of the region's children are increasingly prey to abuse and neglect, family violence, crime, drug abuse and HIV/AIDS, trends that are growing along with national economies.

## IMPLEMENTING THE CONVENTION

With the exception of the Cook Islands, every country in the region has ratified the Convention. In 1996, UNICEF provided technical support to more than a dozen countries engaged in reviewing and revising legislation and national policies to make them consistent with the Convention. These efforts were backed up with social awareness and mobilization campaigns in support of child rights, with national and local media acting as partners. In an effort to "influence the influencers," UNICEF conducted workshops for media and decision makers. UNICEF also trained its own staff and government workers in the use of the Convention as the framework for country programming.

Regional efforts to implement child rights included the first Asian Summit on Child Rights and the Media, which was convened in Manila in July and attended by President Fidel Ramos of the Philippines. An Asia-Pacific Consultation on the Convention, held in Brunei Darussalam in November, highlighted the need to promote juvenile justice and increase advocacy and education programmes, especially those targeting children.

## SUCCESS IN MEETING GOALS FOR CHILDREN

Efforts to achieve the year 2000 goals for children established at the 1990 World Summit greatly advanced children's survival and development prospects throughout the region. Immunization is the most obvious example. In the 1980s, barely 6 per cent of children had protection against the six major vaccine-preventable diseases of childhood, but today between 55 and 75 per cent of children are covered. Nevertheless, this coverage represents a slight drop from levels reached in 1990 at the end of the five-year universal child immunization campaign.

Difficult challenges remain in other areas, including: maternal mortality, estimated at 214 deaths of women for every 100,000 live births; child malnutrition, afflicting more than 20 per cent of children; and access to adequate sanitation for over 60 per cent of the population still not covered.

These numbers are merely regional averages. Many countries, especially the least developed, such as Cambodia and Myanmar, report statistics that present far more daunting tasks. Large

**UNICEF-ASSISTED PROGRAMMES IN:**

Cambodia
China
Cook Islands
Federated States of Micronesia
Fiji
Indonesia
Kiribati
Korea, Dem. People's Rep. of
Lao People's Dem. Rep.
Malaysia
Marshall Islands
Mongolia
Myanmar
Niue
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Samoa
Solomon Islands
Thailand
Tokelau
Tonga
Tuvalu
Vanuatu
Viet Nam



A healthy child makes parents happy. Unfortunately, child mortality and malnutrition remain high in many parts of the region.

UNICEF/96-0012/Chirtsen

differences in achieving goals exist not only among countries but also among socio-economic and ethnic groups.

## INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO GOALS

Around 10 to 20 per cent of children in the region have not been covered by programmes improving access to basic services such as health care and nutrition, water and sanitation and primary schooling. UNICEF is working with governments on programmes to reach these children:

- The Lao People's Democratic Republic established four 'outreach zones', tailoring different strategies and procedures to local needs with regard to immunization, oral rehydration therapy and, in some districts, mother and child health.
- Cambodia, China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Philippines and Viet Nam began reducing gender inequalities that can hinder access to services for girls and women. In addition to boosting girls' education, they combined income-generating projects with functional literacy and 'Facts for Life' training to increase women's skills, decision-making power and opportunities.

In Viet Nam, for example, UNICEF-supported microcredit programmes have reached over 43,000 women with small loans complemented by literacy, education and health-awareness programmes. A 1996 evaluation of a project benefiting 9,600 women showed that the number of households suffering food shortages for more than one month had dropped by over half in the two years since the programme began.

- Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand shifted financial and other resources from their capitals to districts and communities to tackle maternal mortality, child malnutrition and other problems. Compared with 'top-down' initiatives, community-based programmes are better attuned to local requirements, customs and languages. These programmes aim to strike a balance between reinforcing the traditional support role of families and encouraging new behaviour and attitudes, such as sending a daughter to school or using iodized salt. Community-based programmes were also key in upholding children's rights to protection from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

**INDONESIA**

# ...ns purple, it's iodized

In a third-grade class in Pembina School (West Java), Marlita, 9, measures a sample of salt she has brought from home and then sprinkles it with a solution from a UNICEF-supplied testing kit. To her amazement, the white granules turn purple. This means that her salt has passed the test: It is properly iodized, having more than 30 parts per million of iodine.

After her first sample had tested white several days earlier, Marlita brought the disappointing news home. Her mother had never heard of iodine. Nor had she heard of the disorders associated with too little of the micronutrient in the diet, which range from goitre, mental impairment and lack of motor coordination to severe physical deformity, cretinism, stillbirths and miscarriages. Marlita told her mother that iodized salt is 'smart' salt because it prevents these conditions, especially the mental impairment that hurts children's performance in school. This simple health message, which Marlita had learned in school, helped her mother decide to buy iodized salt. Spreading health messages about iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) is crucial in a country where more than a quarter of children aged 6 to 11 have goitre, a swelling of the thyroid gland.

In the early 1990s, as part of a mid-decade goal to eliminate IDD, the Government stepped up eradication efforts begun in 1974, mainly by working with companies to produce and distribute iodized salt throughout the nation. At the time, only half of the country's households were consuming the product.

Despite these efforts, as late as February 1995, a survey showed that the number of households consuming iodized salt had changed little. Project planners realized that they had not paid enough attention to explaining to people the importance of switching their salt. They began bolstering education efforts, using television, radio, posters and other media.

In 1995, the Indonesia Teachers' Association took up the challenge, launching a programme to spread IDD awareness among schoolchildren as a way to reach families, even in remote areas. In 1995, the 1.4 million-member association added IDD to its annual teacher upgrade course and oversaw distribution of testing kits to schools. By the end of 1996, 280,000 kits had been distributed to schools and households. Costs of this programme were covered initially by UNICEF and were assumed by the Government in 1996.

Public-awareness efforts are beginning to pay off, according to a national survey taken in early 1996, which showed that the percentage of households consuming adequately iodized salt rose by over 10 per cent in one year.



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◆ In Thailand, child rights volunteers were trained to develop community-based 'childwatch' and monitoring systems to protect children from hazardous labour and sexual exploitation and to assist their families. The Daughters' Education Programme, an NGO in northern Thailand assisted by UNICEF and the International Labour Organization (ILO), helped girls at high risk receive the skills and support necessary to find work and thereby avoid exploitation in the commercial sex industry. UNICEF also assisted the Teachers' Civil Service Commission in training educators as 'defenders of children' who promote their rights.

◆ In Indonesia, where 650 women die each year for every 100,000 live births, a nationwide Mother-Friendly Movement (Gerakan Sayang Ibu) was launched in 1996 with financial and technical support from UNICEF. At the heart of the movement are local efforts to promote safe motherhood, including better and more timely medical referrals and improved emergency transport for women with delivery complications.

## MEKONG HIV/AIDS PROJECT

The spread of HIV/AIDS is a major concern in the region, especially among young children and teenagers. Growing numbers of young people, especially those exploited in the sex industry, are falling victim to the disease. Even greater numbers are losing parents and caregivers. In Thailand, for example, it is estimated that around 47,000 children will have died from AIDS by the year 2000, and another 80,000 will have lost their mothers to the disease.

To reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS, a three-year $6.1 million project was launched in 1996 with funds from the Netherlands Government and the Netherlands National Committee for UNICEF. Implemented by UNICEF in cooperation with UNAIDS (the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS), the project targets communities in the six countries of the Mekong region (Cambodia, China, Lao Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam). In its first year, the Mekong project supported:

◆ Awareness-raising, training and information-sharing activities for officials from each country. For example, Chinese officials from Yunnan Province exchanged information and experiences with communicable-disease control centres in northern Thailand.

◆ The introduction of life-skills training into formal and non-formal educational curricula.

◆ The design of communication strategies and information materials for ethnic communities in the Lao Republic (Hmong and Yao) and China (Honong, Dai and Yi).

UNICEF/95-0327/Chanton

In a monastic school in Myanmar, girls and boys receive religious as well as basic education.

## MYANMAR BOOSTS SCHOOL ENROLMENT

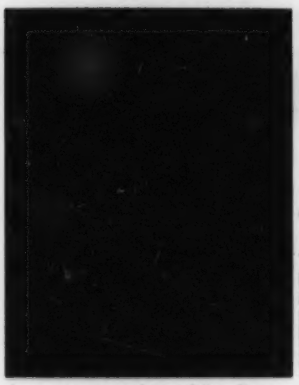
Less than 30 per cent of rural children who enrol in primary schools in Myanmar complete five years of education and nearly 40 per cent of all children never enrol. Two initiatives — the All Children in School (ACIS) project and the UNICEF-assisted Continuous Assessment and Progression System (CAPS) project — aim to bring more children into primary schools and increase their chances of matriculating.

In the ACIS project, parent-teacher associations (PTAs) work with schools to identify out-of-school children in the community and set annual targets for enrolment and retention of these children. As incentives to enrolment, the project provides schools and PTAs with teaching and learning aids. It also encourages PTAs to find ways to exempt poor families from paying school fees.

With UNICEF support and resources from Germany and Japan, ACIS is operating in 44 of Myanmar's 324 townships, covering 5,840 rural primary schools and some 659,000 children. During the 1995/96 academic year, 70 per cent of all ACIS schools met targets for increased enrolment and retention. Between 1994/95 and 1995/96, enrolment increased from 65 to 77 per cent, retention rates from 82 to 89 per cent, pass rates from 82 to 85 per cent and net enrolments from 78 to 84 per cent.

VIET NAM

# [redacted] go to school



UNICEF/C-74/Charlesworth

A young member of the Dao ethnic community.

Fourteen-year-old Thu Sau, a sixth-grader with the ambition to become a teacher, is the first of her nine brothers and sisters to complete five years of primary school. Thu's education is remarkable for many reasons. In her highland village, Dat Do, children often miss school in order to help their families with farmwork and other chores, as they do in many rural villages. Thu's mother, for instance, was just six years old when she went to work in the rice fields. As a result, Madame Thi Sau is illiterate, like the majority of her fellow villagers, most of them members of the Dao ethnic community.

Dat Do's low level of literacy is not uncommon: Similar levels are found throughout Viet Nam's ethnic communities, many of which are located in remote areas. Children in these communities often lack access to schooling. Those who manage to enrol in school tend to drop out early, especially when the curriculum and language of instruction are too unfamiliar or irrelevant to their needs. For these and other reasons, children of ethnic minorities account for just over 4 per cent of children in Viet Nam's schools, although ethnic minorities make up about 13 per cent of the country's population.

The opportunity for Thu to break the mould was provided by the UNICEF-assisted Multigrade and Bilingual Education Project, launched in 1991, which aims to improve education opportunities for ethnic minority children. The project trains teachers, develops new curricula and supplies bilingual learning materials in Vietnamese and four ethnic languages. To date, the project has helped train several thousand teachers to supervise bilingual classes for students mixed into more than one grade level.

These multigrade teaching skills are useful for the general student population as well, who are often crammed into overcrowded classrooms because of a chronic shortage of teachers. A 1993 survey revealed a deficit of more than 96,000 classrooms and 53,000 teachers. Despite high demand for education in Viet Nam, teacher salaries are so low that few want to enter the profession, and the quality of education suffers as a result. Although a high percentage of Vietnamese children enrol in primary school, more than half drop out during the first four grades, and the average graduate takes eight years to complete the five-grade primary cycle.

When the Multigrade and Bilingual Education Project was launched five years ago, Thu Sau was 1 of only 500 ethnic children receiving special attention. But by the 1996/1997 school year, the project had reached around 240,000 ethnic minority children in 33 provinces. It is funded by UNICEF, the World Bank, Australia AID, the Vietnamese Government and local communities.



To deter children from dropping out, the CAPS project concentrates on making improvements in curricula, teacher training, supervision and other key areas.

## PACIFIC ISLANDS: A TROUBLED PARADISE

Often, the first to suffer the effects of rapid economic change are children. In the Pacific Islands, where 40 per cent of the population is under 15 years old, change is breaking down the traditional economic and social fabric. Teenagers, who are getting more education but finding few jobs, are suffering from low self-esteem, family breakdown, more crime, alcohol and drug abuse and suicide.

During the year, UNICEF supported programmes that raise awareness of the problems encountered by youths. As part of this effort, Fiji began broadcasting *Children First*, a UNICEF-assisted weekly television programme on children's rights. In Western Samoa and the Marshall Islands, UNICEF assisted with the production of two videos, entitled *Let's talk*, and an accompanying discussion guide focusing on children's issues. The videos will be distributed to the public, government officials and NGOs through the Pacific Islands Broadcasting Association.

# SOUTH ASIA

THE ODDS ARE STACKED AGAINST SOUTH Asia — it has the lowest per capita income, the largest number of babies born each year, the highest population density and the least nourished children of anywhere in the world. With 25 per cent of the earth's children, the region adds another 40 million newborns each year.

Despite these challenges, many problems can be overcome. The region has kept up moderate economic growth, and several countries have started programmes to increase exports, spur investments and make their economies more efficient.

These measures, however, are not the entire answer: The region's future depends less on economic growth per se than on wider distribution of the benefits, especially to children.

Major successes have been achieved with little means, especially when communities have become motivated to effect profound and lasting change.

Bangladesh, for example, is a country that typifies many of the problems found in the developing world, yet it has achieved the majority of its mid-decade goals for children. Among other accomplishments, the country roughly doubled the percentage of households with access to sanitary latrines between 1990 and 1995 and increased measles immunization coverage from 54 per cent to nearly 80 per cent of children.

## GOVERNMENT ACTION

Every country in the region has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Several have taken steps to incorporate these rights into laws, programmes and national policies in 1996:

- Bhutan's National Assembly amended the Marriage Act to ensure that all children under 18 years (increased from 9 years) receive the benefit of child support if their parents are separated or divorced.
- In India, children exercised their right to freely express ideas in *shishu panchayats*, or children's parliaments, held in the states of Rajasthan and West Bengal to involve children in local governance.
- Maldives set up a rights monitoring network in which communities in all 201 inhabited islands can report incidents of child abuse. A special unit investigates reported cases and may provide counselling services to children, parents or others concerned.

**UNICEF-ASSISTED PROGRAMMES IN:**

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Bhutan
India
Maldives
Nepal
Pakistan
Sri Lanka

UNICEF/93-2129/Nayani

In Bangladesh, women march with banners displaying the popular cartoon character Meena, in support of girls' basic right to education.

◆ Pakistan introduced monitoring of child rights at the district level. Data received from 90 districts have been compiled for a report that will facilitate concerted action.

## REGION-WIDE ACTION

Child protection issues received unprecedented attention from government ministers who attended the Third Ministerial Conference on South Asian Children in Rawalpindi (Pakistan) in August 1996.

At the conference, sponsored by the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), participants agreed to work towards the elimination of hazardous child labour by the year 2000 and the elimination of all other forms of child labour by the year 2010. They also agreed to combat trafficking of children and to work towards the prevention of all forms of violence against children.

## RIGHTS IN EMERGENCIES

UNICEF is paying increasing attention to the rights of children in emergencies, including armed conflict. In Afghanistan, where conservative Taliban policies violated several rights of girls and women, UNICEF stopped its assistance to education programmes in those areas where girls were prohibited from attending school.

A child's right to basic education was also upheld in Sri Lanka, where UNICEF worked alongside NGOs in areas controlled by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam to set up temporary classrooms for displaced children. With financial support from the Governments of Australia, Germany and the Netherlands, UNICEF provided equipment and classroom kits that will enable 6,000 children to resume schooling. About 45,000 kits were distributed to camps. In Afghanistan, 670 classroom kits were distributed in areas affected by armed struggle. Going to

**INDIA**

# *paign to stamp out polio*

**On 7 December 1996, India launched the largest health event in history. Its goal was to eradicate polio, a persistent threat that cripples 10,000 Indian children every year. In just one day, an estimated 125 million children under five received their first of two doses of oral polio vaccine.**

**At dawn, hundreds of thousands of officials, health workers and volunteers fanned out in trucks, bullock carts, bicycles and on foot throughout the country to set up half a million vaccination centres. In New Delhi, Prime Minister H. D. Deve Gowda launched the drive by administering vaccine drops to children at his official residence.**

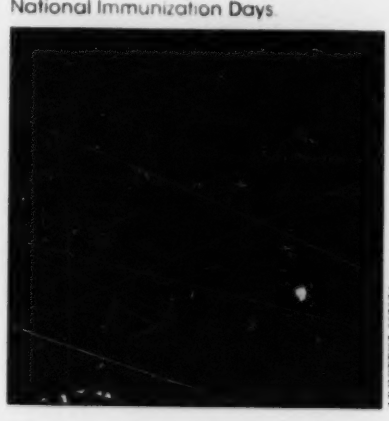
**Supporting these efforts, known as the Pulse Polio campaign, was a vast public-awareness drive that used television, radio, posters — even notices accompanying electricity bills — to publicize the event. Local Rotary clubs organized rallies and street plays, distributed leaflets in local languages and underwrote televised advertisements. Several UNICEF-sponsored TV spots featured nationally recognized celebrities.**

**Polio eradication is crucial in India, a country that reports at least half the world's new cases of poliomyelitis. The viral disease strikes at the spinal cord, often causing fever, paralysis and, in the worst cases, permanent disability and deformity. Polio spreads fast within and across borders. Unchecked, it remains a threat to every country in the world.**

**India aims to eradicate polio by the year 2000, a goal set by leaders at the 1990 World Summit for Children. Through stepped-up eradication efforts begun a decade ago, the country managed to achieve 98 per cent coverage of children under one by mid-decade. But among those who still needed to be reached were the remaining 2 per cent of children under one — a large group in a country as populous as India — as well as slightly older children. In 1995 and early 1996, a massive campaign reached 86 per cent of children under three. The latest campaign increased the age group to children under five.**

**The $16-million drive received funds and technical support from a wide partnership of government agencies as well as international and local NGOs and organizations. Working alongside WHO, UNICEF helped with planning, advocacy, training, procurement of vaccines and equipment, transport, monitoring and evaluation. India will follow up the drive by strengthening routine immunization, surveillance, emergency response to outbreaks and outreach to remote areas.**

Moving towards polio eradication, six countries in the region conducted National Immunization Days.



school helps restore children's sense of normalcy and reduces their trauma and stress.

## ACHIEVING YEAR 2000 GOALS

The virtual eradication of guinea worm disease (dracunculiasis) was one of several regional achievements in meeting mid-decade goals for children, together with significant progress in the promotion of breastfeeding and the reduction of measles deaths. Apart from Maldives, Sri Lanka and the south Indian states, however, countries need to strengthen immunization efforts throughout the region to reach populations not yet covered. These efforts are especially needed in Nepal and Pakistan, where immunization rates have fallen. In Afghanistan, coverage for immunization against all six vaccine-preventable childhood diseases reached an average of just 40 per cent. Nevertheless this figure, up from around 30 per cent in the early 1990s, represents encouraging progress.

In 1996, with assistance from UNICEF, WHO, Rotary International and many local NGOs, six countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka) conducted National Immunization Days against polio. In India alone, an estimated 1.5 million children were immunized *(see panel)*. In Afghanistan, a truce among warring parties allowed children to be vaccinated against polio as part of a campaign that reached over 2 million children in 1995-1996.

Around 80 per cent of the region's population has access to safe water, but the rapid decrease in the underground water supply, with the lowering of water-tables, could pose severe problems in the near future.

## THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE NUTRITION

Unfortunately, existing strategies to combat malnutrition have largely failed. The consequences are tragic for South Asia's children, over half of whom suffer from moderate to severe stunting. More than half of the world's malnourished children live in South Asia. Particularly in urban areas, malnutrition is on the increase.

Like maternal mortality, malnutrition is a complex problem. It evolves early in a child's life from interlocking factors such as inadequate breastfeeding, poor sanitation and hygiene, lack of access to health services and poor family care, especially in relation to girls. Addressing malnutrition, a top priority for UNICEF, will require increasing the status, skills, education, decision-making power and community involvement of girls and women.

One promising development in nutrition is the UNICEF-assisted Nutrition Initiative for South Asia (NISA), an information-sharing and

NEPAL

# [redacted]ties battle child trafficking

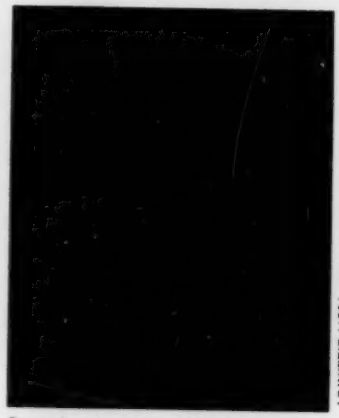
**Sunita was only 13 when she was tricked into leaving her home in one of Nepal's remote villages for the promise of a good job in the city. Instead, she was sent by an 'agent' to India, where she became one of thousands of imprisoned girls forced to perform sex in the cage-like brothels of Bombay. Now, two years later, she is back at home — and suffering from AIDS. Every year, an estimated 5,000 to 7,000 girls like Sunita are trafficked from Nepal to India for prostitution.**

**To help prevent this cruel business, a growing worldwide problem, UNICEF assists local efforts to raise awareness about trafficking and set up simple surveillance systems. These efforts have been concentrated in six of the worst-affected districts and in carpet-weaving factories, which often serve as transit stops.**

**One of the primary groups being trained in awareness and proper handling of cases is the police. To get local communities involved, police have distributed cards that villagers use to send in anonymous tips about suspects. They are also helping to spread warning messages through songs and other simple media readily understood by girls with little or no education.**

**In Sindhupalchowk, a poor district with high trafficking, UNICEF works with about 60 law students to conduct paralegal training for villagers. About 500 girls and 1,500 women so far have learned about their rights and how to combat gender discrimination and domestic violence, two of the root causes of trafficking. The law students also operate a free mobile legal clinic that has helped many villagers deal with problems and file important legal cases protecting their rights.**

**In the same district, a child-to-child programme has helped raise awareness about trafficking and related issues such as HIV/AIDS, all viewed within the context of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The programme is run by the Children's National Networking Group for Child Rights, or Bal Chetna Samuha, the first children's NGO registered in Nepal. With UNICEF assistance, Bal Chetna Samuha conducts training workshops, produces lively educational materials and publishes a newsletter that serves as a clearinghouse for children's views.**



UNICEF/C-117/Noorani

Poverty places children at risk of being exploited.

planning effort, which began concrete work in the region in 1996. The initiative aims to improve caring practices of families and to plan community-wide action. With strong ties to other regional efforts, including SAARC initiatives and a UNICEF/Asian Development Bank project currently under way in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, NISA has already strengthened UNICEF-supported nutrition programmes.

## INVOLVING COMMUNITIES

The success of nutrition and other UNICEF programmes depends on strong community involvement in both planning and management. In India, a pilot programme, Convergent Community Action, provides a successful model for this approach. The strategy encourages all sectors in society — parents, teachers, community leaders, youth groups, health workers, NGOs and government officials — to work together to solve problems. The programme had a major influence on UNICEF programmes and the design of the Government's next five-year plan, which begins in April 1997.

Among the region's many efforts to support opportunities for girls and women and increase their involvement in community life, UNICEF this year expanded the Meena communication initiative.

Meena is an animation and multimedia project that offers positive solutions to discrimination against girls in family and community life. Through Meena, the lively lead character who serves as a role model, girls can learn essential life skills and raise their self-esteem. Twelve new episodes highlight child rights with a gender perspective. The animated films are supported by a radio series, facilitators' guides and educational materials.

## GATHERING INFORMATION: THE FIRST STEP

Children's rights and needs are easily overlooked when the necessary information is not available to planners and decision makers.

One of UNICEF's key goals in the region is to improve ways to gather information and get it into the right hands. Efforts are made to discuss results of surveys with policy makers, district programme managers and communities.

In Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and several states in India, UNICEF supported household surveys on vital aspects of the situation of children and women. In Bangladesh, UNICEF has assisted the collection of comparable data on child health annually in 39,000 households for the last four years.

In Nepal and Pakistan, nationally gathered data was used to tackle the problem of low-quality primary education. Nepal also collected nationally representative information on the problem of poor water and sanitation, the difficulties of achieving adequate early childhood care and safe motherhood.

In Afghanistan, for the first time in 20 years, information on vital indicators is being gathered from all over the country, except where fighting continues.

Using a wide range of recent data, the Regional Office in 1996 published an illustrated *Atlas of South Asian Children and Women* as a powerful way to communicate the region's complex problems and highlight the vast disparities that exist within and among countries.

UNICEF/93-0980/Nawrani

South Asia has a quarter of the world's children and half of its malnourished ones.



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UNICEF/95-0424/Barbour

Children in a school yard in Havana. On average, 73% of students in the region reached grade 5 of primary school.

**UNICEF-ASSISTED PROGRAMMES IN:**

Anguilla
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Bahamas*
Barbados*
Belize
Bolivia
Brazil
British Virgin Islands
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cuba
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Grenada
Guatemala
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Jamaica
Mexico
Montserrat
Nicaragua
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Suriname*
Trinidad and Tobago*
Turks and Caicos Islands*
Uruguay
Venezuela

* through regional funds.

## THE AMERICAS AND CARIBBEAN

CHILD RIGHTS FOUND VITAL EXPRESSION in the region's activities. The Convention on the Rights of the Child provided the framework for 15 country programmes presented to the Executive Board during the year. The focus on rights has widened to include not only protection for children in difficult circumstances but also the survival, protection and development of all children.

Since child rights interconnect, programmes to incorporate them link a variety of approaches, services, sectors and partners. Installing handpumps, for example, does little good unless communities obtain the means and motivation to maintain them and children grasp why washing hands is important.

Advocacy forms the backbone of the child rights approach. UNICEF works with governments and NGOs at all levels to increase awareness of these rights and make them a priority in legislative and administrative reforms.

Largely as a result of these joint efforts, nine countries (Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Peru) reformed legislation in 1996 to incorporate the rights set forth in the Convention. Examples include:

◆ Bolivia adopted the *Law against Violence within the Family*, a major step to protect children and women in the region. The legislation provides legal protection and help for those who suffer domestic violence and establishes penalties and obligatory rehabilitation programmes for offenders.

◆ Costa Rica passed a law that promotes alternatives to incarcerating children accused of minor offences. Honduras is negotiating similar reform.

◆ Guatemala approved a Child and Youth Code, which among other measures provided for a Child Commission — emphasizing community participation — to be set up in each of the country's 330 municipal districts.

It is often a long way from city hall to the streets, however. Implementation of these laws will depend on raising the child rights awareness of law enforcement officials and the communities they serve. The widely distributed Child Rights Training Package, developed by educators in collaboration with UNICEF, incorporated child rights into the curricula of law, social work and related fields of study in 1996.

Regional efforts to promote child rights are paving the way for future action. At the Caribbean Conference on the Rights of the Child (Belize, October 1996), 16 Heads of State or Government agreed to harmonize national laws with the principles of the Convention. Thirty countries signed the Santiago Accord, which identified new priorities for the realization of child rights. And five countries (Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Peru) conducted an important study on child labour and education that produced new policy guidelines.

## BOLIVIA

# ...he impossible

**Less than 20 years ago, Bolivia was considered a worst-case example of iodine deficiency. Health surveys in the early 1980s showed that nearly two thirds of Bolivia's children suffered from endemic goitre, a swelling of the thyroid gland and the most visible manifestation of iodine deficiency disorders (IDD). Also common were the more serious disorders, including stillbirths, miscarriages, neonatal deaths, impaired motor coordination, mental retardation and cretinism.**

**It was clear that many Bolivians, especially those living in the Andes Mountains, were getting too little iodine in their food. The micronutrient, essential to thyroid function, is easily washed out of the soil, especially in some mountainous areas.**

**In 1983, the Ministry of Health launched a nationwide programme to eliminate IDD. As a long-term strategy, it adopted universal salt iodization, a measure mandated by law and backed up with an intensive public awareness campaign. Government officials rounded up support among private producers to add potassium iodate, a form of iodine, to all salt supplies.**

**Producers formed a cooperative, which enabled them to cut the price of their product. At the same time, the Government and the private sector set up a company to oversee production of iodized salt and aggressively market it. UNICEF supported a vast public awareness campaign to increase its use by households, less than 10 per cent of which consumed iodized salt when the programme began.**

**Italy ensured funding. UNICEF and the WHO/Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) provided technical assistance, training, equipment and materials. Canada and Kiwanis International provided additional funds for monitoring and quality control.**

**Both demand and production swelled. By the end of 1996, the amount of iodized salt available per person had increased twenty-fold. A survey taken in the same year revealed that 92 per cent of Bolivian households were now consuming iodized salt and another study showed that goitre prevalence in school children had dropped to 5 per cent. IDD was no longer a significant health problem.**

**In September 1996, after a group of international experts confirmed the virtual elimination of IDD, Bolivia was awarded a gold medal by WHO/PAHO and UNICEF. One of the poorest countries in the world, Bolivia accomplished its year 2000 goal of virtually eliminating IDD — and four years ahead of schedule.**

At the regional consultation for the United Nations study, 'Impact of Armed Conflict on Children', experts from Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Nicaragua and Peru recommended measures to protect children from the effects of war, which included incorporating child rights into training programmes for security forces.

## VOICES OF CHILDREN

One of the most encouraging developments regionwide in 1996 was the growing presence of children in policy-making venues affecting their lives. Hunger, violence and death but also peace, hope and justice were among the concerns addressed by children, and Latin American society learned to listen and take note.

Children were provided opportunities to express their views at the Caribbean Conference on the Rights of the Child; during the drafting of Jamaica's national programme of action (NPA) for children; at the fourth Meeting of the Latin American Inter-parliamentary Commission of Human Rights; and in 'voice of children' opinion polls held in Chile, Costa Rica and Mexico. In Colombia, more than 2 million children cast ballots in schools, parks and shopping centres in support of measures to promote peace and human rights. The vote was organized by UNICEF, the Network of NGOs for Peace and other organizations.

## MOBILIZING RESOURCES

Getting child rights known and placed on the legislative agenda represents a good beginning. Ensuring that these rights find their way into concrete and workable programmes requires a strong match of political will and resources.

Making this task difficult is the fact that many countries' resources are strained by poverty, debt or the lingering effects of violent conflict. Economic growth in the region was a modest 3 per cent in 1996, well short of the 6 to 7 per cent the World Bank estimates countries will need to fund a significant reduction in poverty. Only Chile registered solid growth — estimated at 7 per cent.

Economic belt-tightening and structural adjustments in the region threaten to snatch funds from social services and erode hard-won gains in child health. Reform has helped make some economies more efficient, but it has exacted social sacrifices such as stagnating wages, deteriorating work conditions and high unemployment. Strikes and civil unrest scattered throughout the region served as a disturbing reminder of worsened living conditions for the poor.

Some governments, however, are becoming more active on social issues. Overall, budgets for health and education increased slightly, and NPAs based on goals set at the 1990 World Summit for Children filled gaps in social planning. Guatemala's peace accords, which ended 36 years of armed conflict, stipulated a 50 per cent increase of public expenditure on health and education. Argentina and Brazil worked with the private sector to support programme objectives. And Bolivia did more with less by giving municipal authorities greater responsibility and finan-

cial resources for local services. UNICEF supported much of this effort through greeting card sales, which rose by about 10 per cent this year, as they have done in previous years.

## MEETING GOALS FOR CHILDREN

An assessment of progress made towards achieving the World Summit goals highlighted positive results on several fronts but indicated need for redoubled efforts on others, especially in the areas of infant and maternal mortality.

Immunization against the six basic vaccine-preventable diseases of childhood, with the exception of measles, reached well over 80 per cent of children under one by mid-decade. In 1996, Rotary International agreed to work with UNICEF to eliminate measles in the region by the year 2000.

The region has achieved notable success with programmes fortifying common foods with micronutrients to counter widespread deficiencies of vitamin A, iodine and iron. In Bolivia, vitamin A-fortified sugar reached the marketplace during the year. In Guatemala, where fortification programmes are well under way, children in 420 schools learned how to test their household salt and sugar supplies for levels of iodine and vitamin A, respectively. In Venezuela, a major national survey of households was begun in 1996 to assess the impact of programmes fortifying cereal flours with iron.

## MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

As Bolivia and Haiti have demonstrated, even poor countries can make inroads into basic health problems if the will is there. In July, Bolivia launched a UNICEF-assisted National Insurance System for Maternity and Childhood, a programme of basic health services, which in its first two months doubled prenatal visits, increased the number of births in hospital facilities by 60 per cent and provided medical treatment for 40 per cent more cases of child pneumonia.

The country has also made substantial progress in tackling diarrhoea, a leading killer of infants. A 1996 survey found that use of oral rehydration therapy for diarrhoea had increased from 32 per cent in 1989 to 84 per cent in 1996, whereas the regional average is 64 per cent. With the aim of increasing Bolivia's ORT coverage further, a private pharmaceutical company introduced a low-cost commercial oral rehydration solution, with support from UNICEF and several organizations.

Haiti began a nationwide project to upgrade the training of skilled birth attendants and to renovate 12 maternity units, the first of which opened in 1996, with funds and material assistance from UNICEF and WHO/PAHO (the Pan American Health Organization). Breastfeeding is gaining ground in Haiti's hospitals, two of which were certified as 'baby-friendly' in 1996.

UNICEF/94-0632/Gutierrez

As incubators are in short supply, a mother holds her premature baby against her chest, taking part in the 'kangaroo mother' programme at a maternity hospital in Bogota.

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Increasingly, programmes aim to boost community participation in identifying and solving local problems. The highly successful PROANDES project continued to build the capacities of local Andean communities to provide basic services such as safe water, sanitation and education, and primary health care. In Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela, the Amazon Initiative helped communities adopt cost-effective strategies in development plans, including kitchen gardens and cassava production.

In all community-based programmes, more attention was paid to linking the use of low-cost technology with education and skills training. In Costa Rica, for example, a UNICEF-assisted Children Plumbers project, launched in 1996, trained around 200 children and 50 teachers from poor communities in hygiene and maintenance and repair of latrines, pumps and water systems installed in their neighbourhoods.

## SCHOOLS: A MIXED SUCCESS

Access to primary education in the region is now almost universal and most countries have more

than 50 per cent of students reaching grade 5. The regional average is 73 per cent. These impressive numbers, however, mask hidden and lingering problems: low quality education and lack of access for marginalized children and the poor, especially in remote areas. More than 30 million children in Latin America do not have access to basic education.

Even where access is high, poor teaching methods and irrelevant curricula contribute to a high grade repetition and drop-out rate, which is estimated at 25 to 30 per cent of primary school students. Recent UNESCO studies found that even with five or six years of schooling, half of the region's students are unable to understand simple written messages.

In 1996, 'child-centred' schooling sites were expanded to north-eastern Brazil and rural areas of Costa Rica and Paraguay. These schools incorporate local needs, languages and customs into the curriculum and often offer flexible schedules. Mexico began revising textbooks to make them more responsive to children's needs, and Panama formulated a project for rural schools based on successful experiences in Bolivia, Chile, Colombia and Peru.

## HONDURAS

# ...er at a fair price

**It is not often that poor communities unite to demand basic services from the government — and even rarer that they receive them. But this is exactly what happened when marginalized communities living on the hilly fringes of the capital city, Tegucigalpa, demanded safe water. Today, they not only have what they bargained for, but they also help manage a self-financing water and sanitation project that has become a model for communities throughout Central America.**

Ten years ago, community members received word that municipal authorities had left them out of a master plan to upgrade and extend the city's water supply. Bringing water to the rocky slopes where they lived was just too expensive, they were told. But the leaders of the small group demanding change — most of them women — refused to give in. They were disturbed by seeing so many of their children suffer from diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases, afflictions responsible for a quarter of all child deaths in Honduras. They were also tired of spending as much as 30 per cent of their income to buy water from private vendors.

In collaboration with UNICEF, the National Water and Sanitation Agency (locally known as SANAA) developed the compromise plan still at work today: The agency agrees to supply water to marginalized communities, providing they are in the process of obtaining legal tenure of their land. In exchange, communities agree to supply free labour and some construction materials, and eventually repay all investment costs. Forty per cent of these costs are borne by the community, 35 per cent by UNICEF and 25 per cent by SANAA. UNICEF and SANAA supply the bulk of materials as well as technical assistance. Communities oversee operations and simple repairs.

For water, users pay very low fees. These fees are collected by local water boards, which pay an agreed-upon amount to a revolving fund managed by SANAA. The rest covers local operating costs. The funds collected by SANAA help repay investment costs, cover complex repairs and expand the programme to other communities and projects. Women, who make up half of the board members (up from a quarter at the start of the programme), also play a major role in educating their communities about good hygiene.

In 1996, communities helped construct 21 new water systems serving over 32,000 people, bringing to 125,000 the total number of people obtaining safe water at half the old prices. Encouraged by success, Tegucigalpa's marginalized communities plan to improve sanitation, local schools, health centres, roads and electricity.

Supplying safe water is a UNICEF priority in the region.

UNICEF/C-105/McGirr

# CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE, COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES, AND BALTIC STATES

POVERTY STALKS THE COUNTRIES OF THIS region as they steer a transition from planned to market economies. The course has been rough: Economic performance in most of the 27 countries fell precipitously after the late 1980s, when the Soviet Union began to dissolve. Not until 1995 did most of the downward growth rates improve or stabilize, and in Azerbaijan they continue to deteriorate. Poverty and political turmoil have combined in many areas to disastrous effect.

Families are grappling with the most dramatic changes they have seen in the last four or five decades, and they are trying to compensate for the loss of jobs, pensions and basic social services that were once guaranteed or subsidized by the State. Unemployment remains not only high but rising, reaching nearly 16 per cent in Albania and nearly 15 per cent in Poland, according to 1995 figures.

Because of these and other pressures, more and more families endure the private torments of domestic violence and alcohol and drug abuse. The most vulnerable victims of this economic and social deterioration are children, alarming numbers of whom are abandoned, left to live on the streets, forced to take on hazardous work and sexually exploited. Many end up spending their childhood years in bleak and seriously run-down institutions.

Despite these setbacks, prospects for recovery are promising. Unlike many other areas where UNICEF is active, the countries in this region were better off than most developing nations before the late 1980s. The area also has a skilled workforce and a well-educated population.

Yet donors have been reluctant to support projects beyond emergencies. This may be due to the fact that the region is still considered 'middle rung' on the economic ladder or that the desperate plight of the region's children is not getting the attention it deserves. UNICEF is helping to alleviate this plight by responding not only to emergencies but also to the long-term development needs of the population. Emergency programmes are paralleled by regular programme activities that are gradually supplanting them.

Armed conflict has torn apart the social fabric of Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, the Russian Federation (Chechnya) and Tajikistan, and has disrupted social services in many parts of Armenia, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Ethnic conflicts and political-economic crises, including those in Georgia and

**UNICEF-ASSISTED PROGRAMMES IN:**

Albania
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria*
Croatia
Czech Republic*
Estonia*
Fed. Rep. of Yugoslavia
Georgia
Hungary*
Kazakstan
Kyrgyzstan
Latvia*
Lithuania*
Poland*
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Slovakia*
Tajikistan
The former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Ukraine
Uzbekistan

* through regional funds

UNICEF/92-0031/Charriau

A girl toddler in Kazakstan. Together with neighbouring republics, Kazakstan is trying to address serious vitamin and micronutrient deficiencies in children's diets.

Tajikistan, have displaced almost 1.5 million people in the Caucasus and Central Asian countries. In the region as a whole, an estimated 6 million to 8 million people have fled their countries or become displaced from their homes as a result of conflict.

## UNICEF'S NEWEST REGION

Since UNICEF operations began in the region in 1991 with assistance to children in Romania, 16 country offices have been established. A new Regional Office was opened in Geneva in 1996 to support UNICEF country programmes and coordinate assistance to 11 other countries where UNICEF works.

## BOLSTERING HEALTH CARE

With its limited resources, UNICEF has focused most of its support activities on strengthening local health services, which have seriously deteriorated along with many families' income. Surveys in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia found that medical care and essential drugs accounted for more than 60 per cent of household expenditures, while the very poor could not afford them at all.

During the year, UNICEF supported a pilot project in the Kuba district of Azerbaijan to strengthen health services by increasing district and community involvement. In addition to supplying basic drugs to 15 health centres, UNICEF helped set up local health committees and provide training for health officials in primary health care and management.

Deteriorating health services are reflected in high rates of death among infants and women. Though infant mortality has dropped in many countries since 1995, partly because of successful immunization campaigns, infant and maternal mortality rates are increasing in others. To address these problems, UNICEF is placing strong emphasis on preventive measures, such as upgrading local health services and improving infant and child nutrition, in addition to emergency vaccination campaigns.

Diphtheria, which reached epidemic proportions in all 15 of the Newly Independent States in the early 1990s, was one of the first targets of emergency vaccination. Since the epidemic began in 1990 more than 135,000 cases and 4,000 deaths have been reported.

As a result of a mass campaign undertaken by UNICEF, WHO, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) from July 1995 to June 1996, 145 million people between the ages of 3 and 50 were immunized against diphtheria. A joint appeal brought in more than $25 million for vaccines and medicines. It was estimated that the campaigns would prevent 270,000 additional cases of diphtheria and more than 7,000 deaths.

The disintegration of health systems and national immunization programmes throughout the region has also opened the door to polio. Sixteen countries reported endemic polio at the beginning of the 1990s. National immunization days against polio were started by governments in 1995, and 13 countries continued them in 1996. Six others concentrated their medical resources on groups or areas at special risk. Emergency campaigns immunized 3 million children and adults in Albania and 230,000 under-five-year-olds in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Polio vaccines and other assistance were provided by UNICEF in conjunction with WHO, Rotary International and local NGOs. These efforts helped reduce the number of countries with endemic polio to six by the end of 1996.

Severe winters in some areas — where temperatures can drop as low as –40° Celsius — pose a unique problem for UNICEF, which is more accustomed to working in tropical and temperate regions. In frigid temperatures, schools often close

A nurse holds a newborn in a maternity hospital in the Russian Federation. In most countries in the region, health systems are deteriorating.

UNICEF/92-006/Hartley

POLAND

# ...s go *baby-friendly*

**Maria, 39, gave up breastfeeding her first baby after only a month. At Ciehanow district hospital, where she gave birth several years ago, nurses kept her baby in a nursery and brought him to her for feeding on a pre-set schedule, rather than according to his needs. What's more, the plentiful supplies of free infant formula Maria received from hospital staff encouraged her to wean her child early. UNICEF and WHO recommend that babies be exclusively breastfed for about six months and receive complementary foods alongside breastmilk thereafter.**

**But things have changed dramatically since Maria had her first baby. In 1994, the hospital, located 70 kilometres south of Warsaw, became the first in Poland to be certified 'baby-friendly'.**

**By the time Maria's second child was delivered, hospital staff had introduced the '10 Steps to Successful Breastfeeding' established by WHO and UNICEF. The steps include helping mothers to begin breastfeeding within half an hour of birth and to 'room in' with their babies for 24 hours a day. The steps form the backbone of the worldwide Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI), launched in 1992. Since BFHI was introduced in Poland, the number of mothers exclusively breastfeeding for at least the first three months has doubled.**

**Since Ciehanow joined the initiative, another 16 hospitals in Poland have been certified 'baby-friendly' and 24 more are well on their way. More than half the hospitals in Poland want to join.**

**This support is crucial throughout the region, where free markets have opened the doors to the aggressive marketing of infant formula products by companies defying the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes, adopted in 1981. As late as 1996, a survey in Poland showed that one in three mothers had received breastmilk-substitute promotional information at their health centres, distributed by infant formula manufacturers.**

**Demand for maternity services is high at Ciehanow hospital, which delivers 3,000 babies a year and is the only BFHI hospital in the area. Maria was pleased with the difference she experienced with her second child, who roomed in with her according to baby-friendly practice. "I enjoyed having my little boy in the room with me," she said. "I could breastfeed him whenever he wanted."**



for lack of heating fuel, and UNICEF's immunization 'cold chains' — refrigeration and transport methods that preserve vaccines against high temperatures — become more like 'warm chains' as extra care must be taken to ensure that vaccines do not freeze.

In 1995-1996, UNICEF launched a winter emergency programme in Kyrgyzstan that provided heating fuel, blankets, basic drugs and school supplies to remote rural areas.

Poor nutrition has made anaemia, iodine deficiency disorders and rickets more prevalent in the region. Anaemia is being alleviated through iron-fortification of flour in Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan.

Two 1996 surveys in Kyrgyzstan identified serious vitamin C deficiencies and a high incidence of goitre. One of several disorders resulting from iodine deficiency, goitre is a problem in nearly every country in the region. In 1996, UNICEF began working with the Governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine to promote salt iodization and help salt manufacturers meet standards.

A 1996 survey in the Republic of Moldova found that between 20 and 50 per cent of under-two-year-olds have rickets, a condition resulting from vitamin D deficiency that softens the bones and can lead to bow-legs and other muscular-skeletal problems.

Experts and policy makers from Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan convened a nutrition conference in March in Almaty (Kazakstan), where they mapped out strategies for increasing breastfeeding promotion and child nutrition research, among other goals.

## INSTITUTIONALIZED CHILDREN

The cruel situation of children living in institutions demands urgent attention throughout the region. Children who are orphaned, abandoned, disabled, or imprisoned for juvenile offences live in dilapidated buildings with rudimentary ser-

ARAL SEA ZONE

# al sanitation for children

**Until recently, the outdoor 'pit' latrine used by 115 students at the Bereket primary school was a mess. The roof was dilapidated, the door hinges were broken, there was no hand-washing basin and the school's water system worked only sporadically.**

**This primary school, located in a remote Turkmenistan village, was like most schools in the Aral Sea area, where broken-down plumbing is just one sign of massive deterioration of social services — and a major contributor to disease. The area has suffered environmental and economic devastation as a result of the shrinking of the Aral Sea, which by 1990 occupied half the area it had covered in 1955. Unsafe water, often contaminated by pollutants and salt left by the drying seabed, contributes to the highest infant mortality rates in the nation.**

**In 1995/1996, three Aral Sea countries (Kazakstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) began upgrading health services and supplying schools with materials. These efforts form part of the UNICEF-assisted Aral Sea Project for Environmental and Regional Assistance (ASPERA). An important component of the project is providing safe water and sanitation through simple, low-cost interventions that can be produced locally and planned and managed by communities and NGOs.**

**A few small improvements costing around $1,500 made a significant difference to the Bereket school. In January 1996, the school received a hygiene and sanitation package, which included among other essentials a portable hand-washing basin, soap, repair tools and a small desalination unit for water, manufactured by a local company. During 1995/1996, as part of ASPERA, similar packages were distributed to 88 schools in the area, reaching over 17,000 students.**

**Using simple building materials purchased by UNICEF, parents and other volunteers pitched in to repair the latrine's roof and door. The school principal, parent-teacher association and district government oversaw their training in construction and latrine maintenance. A local brick maker donated bricks that they used to make a path to the latrine. And children cleaned up the school yard, which they continue to maintain.**

**Students are taught about hygiene in fun, participatory classes that meet at least one hour a week. They learn the importance of washing hands, keeping food clean and other practices useful at school and home. Teachers in each school have received hygiene-education resource books developed by education ministries and UNICEF.**

Uzbek children drink water from a standpipe. Access to safe water and sanitation is vital for child health.

UNICEF/92-2283/Harley

vices and minimal care. Disabled children are generally isolated from society without care by properly trained health workers or opportunities to develop.

UNICEF's Romania office evaluated the country's institutions in 1996, recommending that State funds be shifted from institutionalizing children to strengthening foster care and adoption services. Azerbaijan launched a pilot project with the Ministry of Education to improve living conditions in orphanages. In the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, UNICEF and the Government trained 270 teams of psychologists, teachers and social workers in procedures for placing children without families in foster care. These efforts will continue to be a strong focus for UNICEF's work.

## CHILD RIGHTS

All countries in the region have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and 12 have submitted their initial reports on its implementation to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. In response, the Committee recommended that governments take several measures: bring national legislation into line with the Convention; increase advocacy and information about the Convention; address discrimination against the children of minorities; and improve the situation of children who are institutionalized or in conflict with the law.

Several countries involved children in Convention-related activities during the year. In Croatia, a plan of action was presented by children to the mayors of 15 cities at a two-day conference in the city of Slavonski Brod. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia targeted children and other key groups in a child rights awareness campaign. And in Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNICEF, IFOR (NATO's implementation force) and several NGOs organized a 'youth poll' in connection with the country's first post-war elections. In the poll, around 6,000 young people expressed strong hope for the return of refugees, the rebuilding of their cities and lasting peace.



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# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

UNICEF/HQ-0723/Nawaz

**Child workers in Dhaka, who recycle batteries for 17 cents a day, describe their job to young journalists from the news service Children's Express. Sponsored by UNICEF and Children's Express, a group of teenage journalists from Bangladesh and the US studied child labour conditions in both countries.**

## CREATING CHILD-FRIENDLY CITIES

If current trends continue, approximately 60 per cent of children in developing countries will live in cities by the year 2025, and more than half these young people will be poor. In 1996, UNICEF emphasized the need to strengthen its urban focus in programmes in order to reach the most vulnerable children in towns, cities, slums and squatter settlements. Of particular concern is the increasing susceptibility of children in urban areas to the negative effects of youth unemployment, hazardous child labour, sexual exploitation, violence and drug abuse.

UNICEF works with mayors and municipal governments to promote an approach that places child rights at the top of the local political agenda. This approach incorporates decentralized planning and management that invites broad participation from all sectors of society — including children, community groups, the private sector and all levels of government. In 1996, concerns about children in cities received worldwide attention when Habitat II (the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements) was convened in June in Istanbul. As a result of input from UNICEF, NGOs and other partners, the Habitat Agenda that was adopted by participants at the Conference addressed child rights in 45 out of 241 articles.

In 1996, UNICEF worked closely with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA), International Save the Children Alliance (ISCA), Plan International, Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA) and mayors from around the world promoting child

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UNICEF/95-0400/Barbour

Children play outside a school in Havana. Providing urban children with sports and recreational facilities is essential to creating child-friendly cities.

rights during Habitat II, preparations for the Conference and follow-up. Children participated actively by serving on official delegations from governments, youth organizations and NGOs.



## COMBATING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

In August 1996, the first World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held in Stockholm, brought unprecedented attention to a global practice that violates the rights, endangers the survival and impairs the development of an estimated 1 million children each year.

Commercial sexual exploitation is one of the worst forms of hazardous child labour. Children who are lured or abducted into the trade, and who are often trafficked across large distances, endure physical and psychosocial damage they may never overcome. Many of those exploited face increased risks of unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and drug addiction.

The Congress was organized by the Government of Sweden, which also hosted the event, in collaboration with the NGO End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism (ECPAT), the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child and UNICEF. Delegates representing 122 governments and more than 400 NGOs and other groups called on nations to create national plans of action to combat the problem.

Participants emphasized the need to make and enforce laws to prevent exploitation, including child trafficking, and to mobilize the support of local law enforcement officials. It was agreed that close community involvement was essential to raise awareness about the problem and ensure compliance with the law. It was also agreed that more attention should be paid to sexual abuse within the family, a problem related to commercial exploitation.

For UNICEF, the Congress and related events (including six regional pre-Congress consultations) brought new ideas and challenges to country programmes, which have begun strengthening protection measures against sexual exploitation as part of their overall child rights strategies. Efforts included providing children with viable alternatives to exploitative work by improving access to schooling and by broadening educational opportunities for girls at risk.

## CHILDREN IN WAR

In the past two decades, an estimated 2 million children have been killed in armed conflicts around the globe, and about three times that number have been seriously injured. In today's wars, children make up about half the casualties.

These findings were among many featured in a two-year, UNICEF-assisted UN study on the 'Impact of Armed Conflict on Children', commissioned by the United Nations Secretary-General and presented to the General Assembly on 11 November 1996. For the groundbreaking study, Graça Machel, former Minister of Education in Mozambique and the Secretary-General's designated Expert, headed an international team that visited eight conflict zones and conducted six regional consultations as part of its work. In addition, the expert team consulted with child victims of some 30 conflicts around the world, including those in Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Lebanon and Northern Ireland.

The children's testimony added a human dimension to voluminous reports of suffering: gender-based violence and sexual exploitation, service in the armed forces, psychological trauma, landmine accidents, displacement from home and community and the political and economic turmoil resulting from sanctions.

The General Assembly responded to the report's "call to action" with a sweeping child rights resolution co-sponsored by 129 countries and approved by consensus and acclamation. The resolution (A/RES/51/77) called upon States and other parties to armed conflict to

monitor child rights, demobilize child soldiers, end the scourge of landmines, prevent gender-based violence and sexual exploitation, and promote physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of child victims, among other actions. The resolution also established the post of a Special Representative to the Secretary-General on the impact of armed conflict on children, and called on UNICEF, in association with the Centre for Human Rights and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to provide leadership and support for the work of this representative.

Calling on UNICEF's Executive Board to focus on these concerns, the resolution also urged UNICEF to use the report as a framework for future actions, and recommended that, among other priorities, UNICEF pay special attention to the needs of youth in armed conflict as well as to the problem of gender-based violence suffered by girls and women.

The findings and recommendations of the report, which was supported by contributions from Redd Barna (Save the Children, Norway) and many UNICEF National Committees, complements the UNICEF 10-point Anti-war Agenda, which was presented in *The State of the World's Children 1996* report and first implemented early in the year. The Anti-war Agenda also commits UNICEF to promote and protect child rights in war-related emergencies.

## UNAIDS

Since the mid-1980s, when UNICEF became active in HIV/AIDS issues, the organization has dealt not just with prevention and care but also with underlying causes of the epidemic — behaviours, based on societal attitudes, that place children, youth and women at risk.

In 1996, this work was facilitated through UNICEF's participation in the newly formed Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and its implementation arm, the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations (CCO). Operating on a shared budget and workplan, UNAIDS comprises six organizations: UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank.

During the first quarter of the year, UNICEF's Executive Director chaired the UNAIDS CCO. UNICEF worked with the Committee to develop priorities in country programmes, to be pursued in 1996 and beyond, aiming to:

- reduce transmission of the disease;
- promote informed and responsible behaviour among at-risk groups;
- improve reproductive and sexual health facilities for women and young people;
- protect children from sexual exploitation;
- reduce mother-to-child transmission of HIV;
- set up community-based support and social services for AIDS orphans and families.

## BABY-FRIENDLY HOSPITALS

The Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) was globally launched in 1992 by UNICEF and WHO as a way of achieving goals outlined by two landmark documents: the 1990 Innocenti Declaration on the Protection, Promotion and Support of Breastfeeding and the World Summit for Children Declaration and Plan of Action. The Innocenti Declaration called for countries to promote breastfeeding by working towards four targets: appointment of a national breastfeeding coordinator; designation of 'baby-friendly' hospitals; enactment of laws to enforce the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes; and establishment of 'imaginative legislation' to ensure the breastfeeding rights of women employed outside the home.

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UNICEF/92-1239/Noorani

A woman breastfeeds her baby in Bangladesh. UNICEF and WHO recommend that babies be exclusively breastfed for about six months and receive complementary foods alongside breastmilk thereafter.

With the support of local and international NGOs, 171 countries around the world have launched baby-friendly programmes, with 112 countries reporting at least one maternity facility that has achieved BFHI status. The number of baby-friendly hospitals around the world more than doubled during the year, rising from 4,531 at the end of 1995 to 10,574 by the end of 1996.

Standards for designation of a hospital as baby-friendly are rigorous. To qualify, a hospital must convince a team of assessors that all hospital practices are in line with the 'Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding', which promote exclusive breastfeeding through practices such as rooming-in (allowing mothers and infants to remain together) and helping mothers initiate breastfeeding within half an hour of birth. In addition, hospitals must not accept free or low-cost supplies of breastmilk substitutes, feeding bottles and pacifiers.

Recently, the importance of breastfeeding and the detrimental effects of the marketing of breastmilk substitutes were acknowledged in two important events. In December, the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) held its first-ever Global Forum on Breastfeeding, in Bangkok. The meeting, attended by more than 350 participants from 86 countries, addressed the issue of the rights of children and mothers to the highest attainable standard of health through breastfeeding. And in the same month, the Interagency Group on Breastfeeding Monitoring, a coalition of churches, NGOs and academic institutions in the United Kingdom, released a report entitled *Cracking the Code* that described the results of a project in Bangladesh, Poland, South Africa and Thailand monitoring company compliance with globally agreed marketing standards. The results have confirmed that manufacturers of breastmilk substitutes are routinely violating the recommendations set forth by the World Health Assembly 16 years ago in the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes.

As a result of BFHI, women around the world are being empowered to make their own decisions about how to best maintain their children's health, and are supported by maternity facilities and staff.



Needles are sterilized at a hospital in Nigeria. In 1996, UNICEF supplied 1.2 billion doses of vaccines, which helped save the lives of millions of children around the world.

UNICEF/Lemoyne

## IMMUNIZATION

As part of continued efforts in support of immunization, UNICEF joined WHO in 1996 in publishing *State of the World's Vaccines and Immunization*, a review of immunization's progress, constraints and challenges for the future.

The 160-page report declares that child vaccination remains one of the biggest public health bargains, with long-term savings from reduced medical intervention and loss of lives far outweighing the short-term costs of immunization programmes. Today, nearly 80 per cent of the world's children under one year old are immunized, and this high rate of coverage helps prevent 3 million deaths a year. However, millions of children are not fully vaccinated and strengthened efforts are needed to reach them, especially those in remote and marginalized areas.

In 1996, UNICEF continued to play a major role in vaccine procurement, supplying 1.2 billion doses of vaccines, half of which went towards the global polio eradication programme. Nevertheless, more efforts are needed to bring new, and often more costly, vaccines to those in need. Among the antigens being developed or tested are those to treat HIV/AIDS, malaria, pneumonia, meningitis, respiratory infections, dysentery and dengue.

The challenge for UNICEF, WHO and their many partners is to ensure that profit considerations are weighed against public health goals and that governments are helped to find ways of financing immunization programmes to make them sustainable over the long run. The Children's Vaccine Initiative and the Vaccine Independence Initiative, both sponsored by UNICEF and several partners, will play a stronger role to speed up research, introduce new vaccines and help governments finance vaccine procurement and delivery.

# COMMUNICATION

In Yemen, girls and women benefit from a broad communication strategy promoting their participation in society. Through UNICEF-assisted peer training, they learn and teach reading, writing, income-earning skills and vital health lessons.

COMMUNICATION IS VITAL TO THE SUCCESS of UNICEF's work. It spreads awareness and information about key issues, mobilizes support from many sectors of society, encourages broad participation in initiatives and promotes changes in behaviour that can have profound and lasting results. Together, these elements support programmes ranging from immunization to community schools, and they underlie all successful efforts to implement child rights.

UNICEF's communication activities in 1996 reflect the diversity of technologies at hand — from puppetry to satellite-broadcast television programmes, from one-on-one discussions among peers to the electronic exchange of ideas on the Internet.

Relying on a broad range of partners, including UNICEF National Committees, NGOs and the private sector, these activities mobilize support for child rights while finding concrete ways to implement these rights in communities throughout the developing world.

UNICEF has adopted a broad communication strategy to deal with armed conflict and emergencies. To increase awareness of conflicts in Africa's Great Lakes region, Afghanistan and Liberia, for example, UNICEF launched media campaigns in collaboration with National Committees. These campaigns included the dissemination of hundreds of press releases and press kits, as well as photographs and background footage in film and video. In these ways, UNICEF was able to influence public opinion and raise funds for much-needed assistance to children and women.

During the year, UNICEF, together with the French Committee for UNICEF and photojournalist Reza, created an exhibit of 12,000

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UNICEF/95-0986/Chalasani

In a camp in eastern Zaire, a Rwandan woman searches for her nephew's picture among photographs of unaccompanied refugee children.

identification photographs of unaccompanied Rwandan children living in Zairian refugee camps. The exhibit, shown throughout Europe, brought attention to the plight of Rwandan children separated from their families. These photos were part of an ongoing International Committee of the Red Cross/UNICEF family tracing programme for unaccompanied Rwandan children living in their own country as well as in refugee camps in the Great Lakes region. Begun in 1994, the programme, which posts ID photographs in camps and community centres and uses other tracing methods, had helped reunite over 40,000 children with their families by the end of 1996. *(See also 'National Committees').*

## INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY OF BROADCASTING

On Sunday, 15 December 1996, 2,147 television and radio stations from 154 countries and territories participated in the fifth annual International Children's Day of Broadcasting (ICDB), a UNICEF initiative that mobilizes the support of the broadcast industry to draw world attention to children's issues.

Children were involved not only as viewers but also as producers, writers and programme hosts. In Liberia, for example, 65 children worked as broadcasters in three radio stations. Elsewhere, children interviewed government leaders or participated in debates, appeared in game and quiz shows and music festivals, and helped raise funds for needy children.

The goal of the initiative is to expand interest in children's programming and involvement from a single-day event to a year-round activity. This ongoing interest is already evident in several countries. In Lesotho, for example, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting set up twice-weekly radio slots run by children and focusing on child rights. In Thailand, ITV set up a half-hour Saturday programme in which children produce and anchor news reports.

In a related event, the International Council/UNICEF Award, a special Emmy Award that honours broadcasters participating in ICDB, was presented to TVOntario (Canada) at the International Emmy Awards Gala in New York on 25 November. UNICEF and the International Council of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences selected the winner from 26 entries. The other finalists were 2M International (Morocco) and TV Cultura (Brazil).

Through ICDB, UNICEF programming was distributed to more than 100 countries.

## TELEVISION CO-PRODUCTIONS

UNICEF co-productions in 1996 included *Postcards to Cairo*, a documentary about six young people from the Middle East who travel through Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia exploring the theme of child rights; *Dream Girls*, a docudrama on children living and working on the streets in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil); *Growing Up II*, a sequel to *Growing Up* (1993) that examines the effects of the environment on nine children from different countries; and *Alone We Are Nothing*, which uses puppetry to communicate messages about peace and reconciliation.

Cooperation with the World Alliance of Television for Children (WATCH), Prix Jeunesse International, MIP-TV and the European Broadcasting Union helped expand projects and the distribution of UNICEF-produced background footage on key issues. Particularly noteworthy were the co-productions negotiated by the French National Committee with the television station France 2 and by the Italian National Committee with RAI 1 for a documentary series to mark UNICEF's 50th anniversary.

## ANIMATION

Through UNICEF's International Animation Consortium for Child Rights, over 75 animation studios have begun creating 30-second animated features on children's rights for a major broadcast campaign. Among the Consortium members are Polish Television; ICAIC (Cuba); Varga Studio (Hungary); Red Rocket Animation (Indonesia); and Columbia Tri-Star, Hanna-Barbera Cartoons,

and Warner Bros. Feature Animation (US). Consortium members are producing and donating an estimated $2 million worth of free animation for UNICEF.

To support talent and production ventures in developing countries, the Cartoon Network — the 24-hour cable service of the US-based Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. — announced a donation of $75,000 to the Animation Consortium to help 25 animators with production costs. UNICEF has identified artists in Bolivia, Bulgaria, Chile, Indonesia, Iran, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Syria as some of the first grant recipients.

## UNICEF ON THE INTERNET

UNICEF's World Wide Web site was revised in June and December, and by the end of the year, UNICEF's home page was being accessed by users

[redacted]*urpose*

**It is National Immunization Day in Iran. Brought by their parents to the village health centre, children wait anxiously, unsure of what is about to happen. Suddenly, a laughing voice calls their attention to a table where a health worker sits alongside a puppet dressed in flowing robes. Senjed, a puppet — and national television star — is holding court. This popular figure, who once interviewed the Minister of Health on television about the importance of polio vaccine, is now waving his arms in supplication, inviting one child after another to sample the oral polio vaccine he has tasted.**

**Scenes like this are repeated every day as puppets like Senjed are used to mobilize community support for health and other UNICEF-assisted projects the world over. Whether in live performances or on television and video shows, puppets bring their audiences important messages about education, the environment, racial and ethnic harmony, national pride and the all-important issues of child survival, health and nutrition.**

**Puppets have many advantages over other media. In many cases they are interactive, portable and inexpensive to produce, put together from materials as simple as a sock and string. Appearing non-judgemental and less threatening than real actors, they can often explore sensitive subjects such as domestic violence and HIV/AIDS, and in doing so help to change behaviour. For these reasons, UNICEF uses them as important communicators in programmes that range from health to sanitation and from peace education to psychosocial therapy for children.**

**In Bosnia and Herzegovina, puppets helped children overcome the trauma of war-time experiences. In Burundi's Puppets for Peace project, puppets helped thousands of children from different ethnic groups learn to get along with each other. In Namibia, puppets Charlie and John spread important health messages about HIV/AIDS prevention and sexual and reproductive health to thousands of villagers through Puppets against AIDS. This UNICEF-assisted project trained 12 local puppeteers in 1996.**

UNICEF/96-0635/Sarmsko

Indonesian puppeteer Suyadi entertains children with a puppet from his television show Si-Unil, at the puppet workshop in Bandung.

**Puppets also play a strong educational role on television and video programmes. *Plaza Sésamo (Sesame Street)*, a Spanish language series for television co-produced by the Children's Television Workshop and UNICEF, utilizes puppetry and animation to educate, entertain and promote the well-being of children. Launched in Latin America in 1995, the series is broadcast in more than 10 countries in the region.**

**These and other projects were discussed at a UNICEF-sponsored International Workshop on Puppets for Development, held in Bandung (Indonesia) in September 1996. At the hands-on workshop, puppeteers, communicators, television producers and development experts from more than 25 countries came together to learn new ways to make puppets from local materials, gain insight from each other's experiences and explore ways to promote child rights.**

more than 100,000 times a month.

Users were able to find all major UNICEF publications in full text through the UNICEF Gopher. They could also find news about the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its implementation in a child rights Weblet set up during the year. The UNICEF Web site also informs users about how to contribute to UNICEF. It was kept current with updates on UNICEF activities and information on the organization's 50th anniversary, including the launch of *The State of the World's Children 1997*.

## EDUCATION AND CHILD RIGHTS

The Education for Development (EDEV) initiative makes human development and child rights issues lively and accessible to teachers and youth in both industrialized and developing countries. One of the initiative's primary aims is to increase children's participation in matters of global development, peace and justice. Its educational materials are adapted for local use by National Committees and educators.

In 1996, several important projects were begun or strengthened:

- Voices of Youth: The thoughts of young people on global issues affecting children found an outlet on UNICEF's Web site 'Voices of Youth' in 1996.

The interactive Web site uses case studies, statistics, background documents, photographs and colourful illustrations to introduce Internet browsers to such concerns as child rights, children and war, children and cities and the challenges faced by girls. Materials encourage children to express their views, share thoughts with others and explore ways to solve problems.

Also in 1996, the Voices of Youth forum was linked to Habitat II — the City Summit (Istanbul), the Pan-Caribbean Conference on the Rights of the Child (Belize) and the World Youth Forum (Vienna). The site is reached at: www.unicef.org/voy.

- Peace education: Peace education programmes held in Egypt, Rwanda, South Africa, southern Sudan and Tanzania (in refugee camps) helped thousands of young people learn how to build tolerance, resolve disputes peacefully and work together to achieve common goals. A manual, designed to assist those who train teachers and youth leaders in conflict resolution in both industrialized and developing countries, was tested in 42 countries.
- School speakers' kit: A 'starter kit' was produced to help educators introduce children aged 10 to 16 to the work of UNICEF.

## FACTS FOR LIFE

With 15 million copies in circulation, *Facts for Life*, a book of essential child health information written in simple language, has found its way into communities all over the globe. Endorsed by the world's leading experts on child health and well-being, the book explains basic facts that parents need to know on the major child health topics: the timing of births, safe motherhood, breast-feeding, child growth, immunization, diarrhoea, coughs and colds, hygiene, malaria, HIV/AIDS and child development. First printed eight years ago, *Facts for Life* has since been adapted and translated into more than 215 languages and is used in nearly every UNICEF country programme.

In a 1996 evaluation of the activities undertaken to promote the dissemination of the book, nearly all 31 countries surveyed expressed enthusiasm for expanding the activities. Suggestions were made to reach larger and younger audiences and to use *Facts for Life* as a training tool for communication planning and evaluation. However, the study also underscored the need to supplement the book's simple information with efforts to promote behavioural change and build the skills and capabilities of those benefiting from its advice.

## THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN 1997

Launched on 11 December 1996 in New York by UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy and in numerous events around the world, *The State of the World's Children 1997* traced the lives of the world's working children, the causes and scope of child labour and many of the approaches UNICEF supports to address child labour issues. One quarter of children between the ages of 5 and 14 in the developing world are believed to work, many of them full time and many in hazardous conditions, to help their families survive. Too tired, busy or impoverished to attend school, they are often locked into a repeating cycle of poverty. To improve these children's lives, the report set out a series of six vital measures — including the immediate end of hazardous and exploitative child labour and the provision of free and compulsory primary education.

The report generated wide interest and coverage around the world. It also evoked commitments from world leaders. In Chile, the Labour



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Minister announced the establishment of the National Committee to Eradicate Child Labour and the submission of new legislation to raise the minimum age for work. In Côte d'Ivoire, the Government promised to make child labour a top priority. Sri Lanka's Labour Minister asked citizens to identify situations where working children are being exploited. In close collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNICEF will participate in the International Conference on Child Labour, being convened by the Norwegian Government on 27-30 October 1997.

## THE PROGRESS OF NATIONS 1996

The 1996 report called attention to the terrible toll taken on women's lives as a result of complications from pregnancy and childbirth, and to the exceptionally high rates of child malnutrition in some areas. Among other key issues, the report reviewed progress and obstacles relating to girls' education and the alleviation of child poverty in industrialized countries.

*The Progress of Nations 1996* was launched in Paris on 11 June. Simultaneous media launches, briefings and related events were organized by regional offices, field offices and UNICEF National Committees all over the world.

New data on rates of maternal mortality generated the greatest interest among media. The report showed that around 585,000 women die in pregnancy and childbirth each year, a figure almost 20 per cent higher than was previously estimated. The report also cast new light on child malnutrition, one of the oldest and most complex problems of the developing world, showing surprisingly high malnutrition rates for children under five in South Asia.

Published in 18 languages, *The Progress of Nations* provides comparative and country-specific data to monitor the progress made by countries around the world in achieving the goals for children set at the 1990 World Summit.

## GLOBAL PUBLISHING

UNICEF has strengthened its partnerships with commercial publishers of both academic and children's books. In an effort to reach young audiences, UNICEF in 1996 began collaborating with publisher Dorling Kindersley on a sequel to the successful *Children Just Like Me*, a lively compendium of profiles of children from different cultures, published in 1995. The sequel, to be published in 1997, will illustrate, in text and photographs, children's festivals from around the world. *Children Just Like Me* was produced in 16 languages by various commercial publishers, and by the end of 1996 it had sold over 700,000 copies, with royalties going to UNICEF.

In honour of UNICEF's 50th anniversary, *Children First: The Story of UNICEF, Past and Present*, by Maggie Black, was published by Oxford University Press in association with UNICEF. In chapters on the organization's recent history, the book highlights the positive change that the emphasis on child rights is bringing to UNICEF programmes.

UNICEF's research centre located in Florence (Italy), the International Child Development Centre (ICDC), carried out special studies on the relationship between reducing or eliminating child labour and the expansion of relevant, affordable and accessible primary education for children. An essay summarized the main results of case studies in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala and Peru. A monograph was also published on child labour with a historical perspective (1800-1985), with case studies from Colombia, Japan and European countries.

For its series on economies in transition, ICDC produced studies examining the growing risks to children and families in Georgia and Romania. A special focus was the worsening conditions of frequently marginalized groups such as Gypsies. The issues of institutionalization, adoption and foster care for abandoned children were also examined in depth.

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[redacted]*ry publication*

**"There has never been a time during the past 50 years when the children's cause has enjoyed a greater visibility or when there has been a clearer sense of the need to protect childhood. This applies wherever childhood is threatened, by whatever forces, in societies North, South, East, West, rich, poor and in between."**

**— from 'Towards 2000 and Beyond', *Children First***



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# PARTNERSHIPS

**Philippine children carry signs featuring various rights included in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Children are UNICEF's vital partners in development.**

## NATIONAL COMMITTEES FOR UNICEF

UNICEF IS REPRESENTED IN INDUSTRIALIZED countries by 38 National Committees, whose fund-raising and advocacy efforts help ensure that children's rights are widely recognized and implemented. Increasingly, this work has been supported by many thousands of volunteers, especially children, who support educational campaigns, help organize fund-raising events and play an active role in the sale of UNICEF's greeting cards.

The celebration of UNICEF's 50th anniversary provided Committees with a prime occasion to promote the organization's 'children first' theme. The United States Committee for UNICEF launched a successful information and advocacy drive to urge members of the US Congress to maintain the country's annual $100 million voluntary contribution to UNICEF.

The French Committee for UNICEF organized an award-winning travelling exhibit of photographs of unaccompanied children in Rwanda and sponsored a major international colloquium in Paris, 'Children: Wealth of the world', which was attended by the President and Prime Minister and achieved wide media coverage.

In Ireland, the National Committee, the Congress of Trade Unions and the National Post Office organized a campaign, 'One day for the world's children', which invited participation from all members of society.

In celebration of UNICEF's 50th anniversary, the Canadian UNICEF Committee helped produce official postage stamps featuring artwork of

three UNICEF greeting cards. In association with McGraw-Hill Ryerson Limited, the Committee supported the development and launch of My City, an educational CD-ROM featuring child rights.

Using the Convention on the Rights of the Child as their framework, National Committees have actively promoted child rights within their own countries. The Spanish Committee, in collaboration with the University of Salamanca and the International Child Development Centre in Florence (Italy), organized a symposium of international experts on the Convention.

The Slovak Committee created Childline, a 24-hour child rights telephone line staffed by 80 volunteers who respond to calls on problems faced by children in that country.

In Bulgaria, teachers, lawyers and volunteers worked alongside the National Committee to hold child rights seminars and adapt the UNICEF publication *It's Only Right* for use in teaching kindergarten children. Volunteers in Bulgaria, in collaboration with local authorities and NGOs, have also begun projects to assist children living or working on the streets.

In a region-wide effort, European National Committees and UNICEF's Regional Office for Europe cooperated with the Council of Europe in developing the European Strategy for Children, which the European Parliament adopted in 1996. The strategy calls for full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the Parliament's 40 member States.

## PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM HARM AND ABUSE

In 1996, many National Committees focused their efforts on combating sexual exploitation of children and exploitative child labour, two issues that received unprecedented worldwide attention during the year.

The Swedish Committee for UNICEF helped organize the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held in Stockholm in August. As a follow-up to the Congress, the Irish National Committee for UNICEF actively influenced passage of a national law covering extraterritorial prosecution of offenders. In addition, Committees pressed for greater coordination of European laws to deal with the sexual exploitation of children.

In support of the growing worldwide campaign against hazardous and exploitative child labour, Netherlands Committee volunteers helped organize a nationwide walk in support of the 'Fight against child labour'. More than 100,000 children helped set up routes, establish contacts with members of local governments and police forces and educate the public on the issue. Collaborating with other organizations, the volunteers circulated a petition calling on the Netherlands Government and the European Union to take measures to end the most extreme forms of child labour. The petition will be presented to the Netherlands Minister for Social Affairs and Employment during the International Conference on Child Labour, to be held in Oslo in October 1997.

The German Committee also launched an awareness-raising campaign on child labour, working with volunteers to provide 440,000 households with educational material, organize press conferences and brief government officials on the issue. The Committee also organized a 60-hour radio series on child rights.

Working closely with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Government of Italy, the Italian Committee for UNICEF formed a partnership with trade unions and a wide range of corporations and organizations to combat exploitative child labour. A fund-raising campaign with the slogan 'One hour of your salary to give a chance to a working child' targeted 15 million workers and raised money to support UNICEF programmes in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan.

Protection for children in war drew the attention of several Committees. The issue was highlighted in 'Action for Children', a week-long information campaign sponsored by the Austrian Committee, and was the focus of educational seminars and symposia organized by the UNICEF National Committees in Japan and Switzerland.

To publicize the UN study on the 'Impact of Armed Conflict on Children', the United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF held a successful launch, which featured guest speaker Zlata Filipovic, author of *Zlata's Diary*, describing her experiences living through the siege of Sarajevo. The year marked the Committee's 40th anniversary.

## EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

As part of the Education for Development initiative, the Danish Committee began building a network of teachers interested in promoting UNICEF's goals for children.

Children's words and drawings about peace provided the basis for an 'education for peace'

*"Forming partnerships has been UNICEF's great strength."*

— Roger Moore, UNICEF Special Representative for the Film Arts

programme introduced in schools in Andorra in 1996/1997, with assistance from the Andorran Committee.

The Hong Kong Committee selected 30 students as Young Envoys to study children's needs in developing countries and the ways in which UNICEF programmes are addressing them.

### RAISING FUNDS

In the face of a widespread decline in development assistance, National Committees organized many successful fund-raising campaigns. Under the motto 'UNICEF helps children, Munich helps children', the German Committee, together with the people of Munich, contributed approximately DM 3.8 million ($2.5 million) to UNICEF programmes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Ethiopia and Zaire. Following the Yunnan earthquake in China, the Hong Kong Committee delivered educational materials and medical and water supplies to those in need of assistance, and a fund-raising campaign organized by 1,000 volunteers helped purchase tetanus toxoid vaccines used to immunize women in China. The Slovak Committee raised funds selling small reproductions of artwork by several renowned Slovak artists.

On the occasion of UNICEF's 50th anniversary, Cathay Pacific Airlines joined UNICEF's Change for Good campaign, a corporate partnership involving 12 commercial airlines that collect contributions for UNICEF from their passengers.

In 1996, the UNICEF Regional Office for Europe, in Geneva, became the focal point for management of relations with National Committees. The office will play an active role in the planning process of each Committee.



In Angola, a landmine removal technician with the British NGO Halo Trust probes the ground. UNICEF works with NGOs in war-affected countries to clear landmines and spread awareness about their dangers.

UNICEF/96-0117/Pirozzi

## NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

WHETHER RAISING GLOBAL AWARENESS and funds, operating health clinics or staging street plays in support of immunization, international, national and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are vital UNICEF partners in delivering basic services to children and protecting their rights.

Among the distinguished and wide network of NGOs are groups such as Rotary International, which has worked with UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) to help turn the goal of global polio eradication by the year 2000 into a foreseeable reality. In 1996 alone, Rotary contributed $12.8 million to UNICEF-assisted polio eradication campaigns, with Rotary Clubs around the world involved in fund-raising, orchestrating immunization drives and mobilizing community support. The UNICEF Executive Board, at its second regular session in 1996, formally renewed the vital partnership with Rotary's PolioPlus programme, extending the programme of cooperation to cover the period from 1996 to 2000.

Through its Worldwide Service Project, Kiwanis International continues to act as a strong partner in the global effort to virtually eliminate iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) by the year 2000, a World Summit goal. In 1996, Kiwanis International contributed $4.4 million to support UNICEF-assisted projects in this area, with the funds remitted to UNICEF through various National Committees.

NGOs are natural partners for UNICEF in promoting child rights, a field in which they have pioneered for decades. At a meeting in New York in September, officials from UNICEF and the International Save the Children Alliance (ISCA) outlined plans for joint action promoting child rights at the international, regional and country levels. This action will cover, among other priority areas, maternal mortality and psychosocial rehabilitation for children affected by armed conflict. The organizations also agreed to exchange information on anticipated emergency situations.

One long-time focus of NGOs has been helping to ensure children's right to protection and care during armed conflict. NGOs made a major contribution to the UN study on the 'Impact of Armed Conflict on Children', presented to the General Assembly in November 1996, through participation in regional consultations and sub-

mission of substantive background papers. The study also identified NGOs as essential partners for implementing its recommendations.

To assist children who have no birth records or citizenship papers, the NGO Committee on UNICEF worked with Child Rights ASIANET and the UNICEF Regional Office for East Asia and the Pacific in raising funds for a child registration project launched in nine countries in East and South Asia.

In October, the International Council of Voluntary Agencies, in association with the Geneva Palexpo centre, organized WorldAid '96, an international exhibition and conference on humanitarian assistance, held in Geneva. The events were attended by government representatives, UN agencies, including UNICEF, and over 100 NGOs.

In November, UNICEF and Lions Clubs International cemented their partnership by formally agreeing to cooperate on programmes to assist children living or working on the streets, youth and children affected by armed conflict.

## GOODWILL AMBASSADORS AND CELEBRITIES

OVER THE YEARS, GOODWILL AMBASSADORS, Special Representatives and other celebrity supporters have helped to raise millions of dollars for UNICEF, spread the word about its work and popularize important advocacy messages. For UNICEF's 50th anniversary year, these partners were involved in a great many fund-raising and advocacy activities, especially those regarding child rights.

### NEW PARTNERS

Joining the UNICEF community were actress Jane Seymour, who in October was appointed Special Representative for the Performing Arts; fashion model Vendela, named an International Spokesperson in May; and the Boys Choir of Harlem, given the title of Honorary Young Ambassadors for UNICEF in December.

New National Ambassadors were appointed by the US Committee for UNICEF (Laurence Fishburne, Maya Angelou); the Irish National Committee (Liam Neeson); the Italian Committee for UNICEF (Alberto Tomba); and by UNICEF's country office in Thailand (Former Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun).

UNICEF/97-0069/Dorsaz

**Actress Jane Seymour, appointed UNICEF Special Representative for the Performing Arts in 1996, hugs children during her trip to El Salvador on her first official mission.**

### FUND-RAISING SUPPORT

Accompanied by a Japanese television crew, Goodwill Ambassador Tetsuko Kuroyanagi travelled in May to visit UNICEF-assisted programmes in Belgrade, Gorazde, Kosovo, Sarajevo, Zagreb and Zenica. On her return, she began an extensive and very successful campaign to raise funds to assist these programmes. During 1996, Ms. Kuroyanagi raised $2 million for UNICEF.

Special Representative for the Film Arts Roger Moore was very active during 1996, supporting activities of National Committees in Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany and Sweden. He is Honorary Chair of Kiwanis International's Worldwide Service Project to eliminate iodine deficiency disorders, which supports UNICEF-assisted projects. In August, Mr. Moore participated in the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held in Stockholm, taking a prominent part in several media-related activities. In November, he visited UNICEF-assisted programmes in the Philippines and then travelled to Sydney and Hong Kong to launch Check-out-for-Children campaigns sponsored by ITT Sheraton hotels. Check-out-for-Children, which operates throughout Australia, Europe and the Pacific, provides UNICEF with the local currency equivalent of $1 for each guest bill. Mr. Moore closed the year by helping to launch UNICEF's *The State of the World's Children 1997* report on 11 December at a press conference in New York.

In April, Special Representative for the Performing Arts Julio Iglesias delivered a speech on child rights and child victims of war at a gathering of the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. The speech was re-broadcast many times

DC Comics

**Superman warns children to stay away from landmines in this special edition DC comic book, *Superman: Deadly Legacy*, published in 1996.**



throughout the US on C-Span.

Goodwill Ambassador Harry Belafonte participated in a full schedule of media and other activities in October for the Canadian UNICEF Committee in Toronto. Mr. Belafonte and Mr. Iglesias joined Special Representatives for the Performing Arts Youssou N'Dour and Judy Collins along with Honorary Spokesperson Nana Mouskouri in appealing for support for UNICEF's programmes during their concert performances worldwide. Special Representative for the Performing Arts Vanessa Redgrave continued her ongoing fund-raising activities for Bosnia and Herzegovina, as did Ms. Collins, who lent her active support to child victims of war in that country and neighbouring Croatia. Through her professional contacts, Ms. Collins brought DC Comics and the US Department of Defense together to publish a special Superman comic book, *Superman: Deadly Legacy*, which alerts children in Bosnia and Herzegovina to the dangers of unexploded landmines. Approximately 250,000 copies of the comic book were distributed in English and two local languages to children in schools, hospitals, orphanages and refugee camps.

Vendela helped coordinate activities for the children's parliament, 'Young Voices at the United Nations' *(see panel, page 51)*, in which Ms. Collins also participated.

### UNICEF'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

On 11 December, Roger Moore hosted UNICEF's 50th anniversary commemoration in the UN General Assembly Hall. The event featured Nana Mouskouri, the Boys Choir of Harlem, and Canadian performers and UNICEF National Ambassadors Sharon, Lois and Bram. During the ceremony, Special Representative for Sports Johann Olav Koss received a special award for his support of Olympic Aid-Atlanta 1996 (OAA). Largely through his efforts, OAA had raised $12 million for UNICEF programmes by the end of 1996. Following the event, Ms. Mouskouri left for Hanoi to perform in two UNICEF benefit concerts and participate in a field mission to programmes in Viet Nam.

In February, Goodwill Ambassador Sir Peter Ustinov visited UNICEF-assisted projects in Cambodia and Myanmar. He then travelled to Washington, D.C. to join First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and others in a special US Committee family entertainment event at the Warner Theatre in honour of UNICEF's 50th anniversary. He also supported fund-raising and advocacy initiatives of the National Committees of Austria, Germany and Ireland.

Goodwill Ambassador Liv Ullmann assisted fund-raising and advocacy efforts of the National Committees of Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden. At a 50th anniversary event in Atlanta in February, she received the Carter Center and US Committee's Child Survival Award, presented by former President Jimmy Carter.

## STRENGTHENING PARTICIPATION IN UN AFFAIRS

TO COMMEMORATE UNICEF'S 50TH anniversary, the United Nations General Assembly adopted by consensus a resolution (A/51/L.59), co-sponsored by 143 countries, congratulating UNICEF for its significant contributions to the survival, protection and development of children and its promotion of child rights.

During its participation in the Third Committee of the General Assembly, UNICEF focused on child rights, and two major relevant resolutions were approved by consensus during the 51st Session of the General Assembly. The first, the resolution on the rights of the child (A/51/77), includes sections on protecting the rights of children affected by armed conflict, preventing and eradicating sexual exploitation of children, eliminating exploitation of child labour and protecting the rights of children living or working on the streets.

The second resolution, which focuses on the girl child (A/51/76), calls for legislation to address discrimination against girls; to ensure equal participation in social, economic and political life; to strengthen health education and services; and to mobilize resources to implement the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995.

### INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

Efforts at UN cooperation and reform dominated many activities in 1996. UNICEF was an active participant in this process. Through the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP) and the inter-agency mechanisms, UNICEF joined other UN partners in improving efficiency, eliminating duplication and waste, increasing collaboration among agencies and programmes and enhancing programme effectiveness in the field. In collabo-

# [redacted]liament

**For seven years, Claudio lived on the streets of Rio de Janeiro, dodging drug dealers and brutal police. Suresh survived eight years of toil in sweatshops in India, where he began work at the age of seven. And Lama Mohammed lived in a refugee camp in Egypt after fleeing armed conflict in his native Yemen. Claudio, Suresh and Lama Mohammed are children who have experienced some of the harshest conditions society can inflict on its young.**

**In November 1996, these young people travelled to New York to join more than 60 girls and boys, aged 11 to 17, at the children's parliament, 'Young Voices at the United Nations' — the first event of its kind ever held at the organization. Co-sponsored by Norwegian Children's Aid and UNICEF, the parliament gave children from 30 countries an opportunity to address delegates with their concerns, opinions and proposals for change.**

**Victor, 17, representing the NGO Working Children of Peru, argued for better working conditions for street children. Okata, 13, described the benefits of peer counselling in Malawi's clubs promoting HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention. Ram Kumari, 16, who as a young child in Nepal was nearly sold into prostitution, told how a local children's NGO was spreading awareness about child prostitution.**

UNICEF/96-0659/Mera

Several participants in 'Young Voices at the United Nations' take a moment to play a game featured in UNICEF's 'Summitry Works' exhibition.

**Many of the participants are active in NGO and community groups promoting change back home. Several of the young people had also contributed vital background information and proposals for change to the UN study on the 'Impact of War on Children', a major report presented to the United Nations General Assembly in November.**

51

rative efforts during the year, UNICEF:

- Continued to provide technical support to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and also supported the Centre for Human Rights in organizing a consultation between the Committee on the Rights of the Child and media specialists on the effects of the mass media on children, especially in relation to violence on television.
- Worked with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Bank to assist governments and donors to improve the monitoring and reporting of resources allocated to basic social services.
- With WHO, launched the *State of the World's Vaccines and Immunization* report, which reviewed progress and constraints in implementing worldwide immunization programmes and drew attention to several new vaccines being developed.
- Cooperated with several agencies in the UN Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), a group formed in 1996 to coordinate research and programme planning covering prevention and care relating to HIV/AIDS.
- Worked closely with UNDP and UNFPA throughout 1996 on the harmonization of the agencies' budgets. Their efforts aim to reconcile budget presentation, definitions and methods by 1998.

## COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

IN 1996, UNICEF'S CONTINUED COLLABORATION with partner organizations helped strengthen the position of child rights on the world human rights agenda. During the fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights, held in Geneva from 18 March to 26 April 1996, governments, parliamentarians, religious groups and NGOs commemorated UNICEF's 50th anniversary.

In Yaounde (Cameroon), in July, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African



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Unity (OAU) and the UNICEF Executive Director attended a Children's Mini-Summit on the Anti-war Agenda, sponsored by the two organizations. The Executive Director then headed the UNICEF delegation to the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, which passed a landmark resolution on the situation of African children in situations of armed conflict.

The situation of children in Africa was also the focus of the sixth annual commemoration of the Day of the African Child on June 16. The New York celebration was used as a fund-raising opportunity for the first time, with the Chase Manhattan Bank donating a significant amount for AIDS projects in Uganda.

In November, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Ms. Graça Machel and the participants of a children's parliament held at the United Nations joined many members of the religious community in a multi-religious service on the occasion of the New York launch of the UN study on the 'Impact of Armed Conflict on Children'.

UNICEF cooperates with religious groups such as the World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP)/Interreligious Leadership Council for Children and the Action Council Committee, which played key roles in a series of worldwide forums on children in armed conflict and the sexual exploitation of children.

UNICEF formalized relations with several important intergovernmental groups during the year, signing memoranda of understanding with the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and the Commonwealth Secretariat as well as a cooperation agreement with the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation in Africa (ACCT) on girls' literacy and education projects in francophone Africa, Asia and Latin America. ACCT committed approximately $240,000 to girls' education and child rights projects in Djibouti, Guinea, Haiti and Viet Nam.

US Paralympic medallist/wheelchair athlete Ann Cody (centre), wearing an Olympic Aid-Atlanta 1996 T-shirt, demonstrates her volleyball throw to a crowd in Kabul (Afghanistan), where several OAA-funded projects helped war-affected children.

UNICEF/96-0197/Hanlon

## OLYMPIC AID-ATLANTA 1996

THE 1996 OLYMPICS PROVIDED UNICEF WITH an unusual opportunity to assist some of the world's most vulnerable children. UNICEF joined with the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) in a fund-raising campaign, Olympic Aid-Atlanta 1996 (OAA), to provide relief to children in 14 countries affected by complex and long-running emergencies. Nearly $12 million was raised, largely through the work of UNICEF Special Representative for Sports, Johann Olav Koss, and ACOG co-chairman, Ambassador Andrew Young.

Immunization was the main focus of OAA, which also provided assistance to health and sports programmes. In two of the most dramatic OAA-funded efforts, warring parties on both sides of conflicts in Afghanistan and northern Iraq agreed to cease hostilities to observe 'days of tranquillity', allowing the immunization of children and women to take place through UNICEF-assisted campaigns.

National Olympic Committees worked alongside UNICEF Committees to raise funds, most of which came from the general public. Olympic athletes helped publicize many of their activities. The European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) made a major contribution. Governments also contributed directly to OAA, with two of the most significant donations received from the Netherlands and Norway. Among individuals, US entertainer Garth Brooks was a major contributor, donating $1 million to the campaign. The majority of funds were raised and received by National Committees.

In 1997, funds raised during and after the 1996 Olympic Games will be allocated to UNICEF country offices for implementation of additional health, education and psychosocial rehabilitation programmes for children traumatized by war.

# RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT

UNICEF/94-0716/Pirozzi

Workers unload UNICEF emergency supplies from a plane in Goma (Zaire).

## UNICEF FINANCES

### INCOME

UNICEF DERIVES ITS INCOME FROM TWO main sources, both of which give voluntary amounts: governments and intergovernmental organizations; and non-governmental/private sector sources.

In 1996, contributions from governments/intergovernmental organizations accounted for 64 per cent of total income ($607 million). An additional $300 million (32 per cent) came from non-governmental/private sector sources while $37 million (4 per cent) came from a variety of other sources *(see pie chart, page 6)*. For estimated governmental and non-governmental/private sector contributions by country, see pages 59 through 62.

Total income for 1996 was thus $944 million (compared with $1,011 million for 1995). This included $106 million (11 per cent) in contributions for emergencies ($163 million in 1995), $551 million (58 per cent) for general resources and $287 (31 per cent) for supplementary funds.

General resources are used for UNICEF's cooperative participation in country programmes approved by the Executive Board, as well as for programme support and administrative expenditures. The UNICEF programme budget in each country is allocated according to three criteria: under-five mortality rate (the probability of dying between birth and five years of age expressed per 1,000 births); income level (GNP per capita); and the size of the child population. The table on page 55 shows country programme funds.

General resources income includes contribu-

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tions from 95 governments; net income from the sale of greeting cards; funds contributed by the public (mainly through National Committees); and other income.

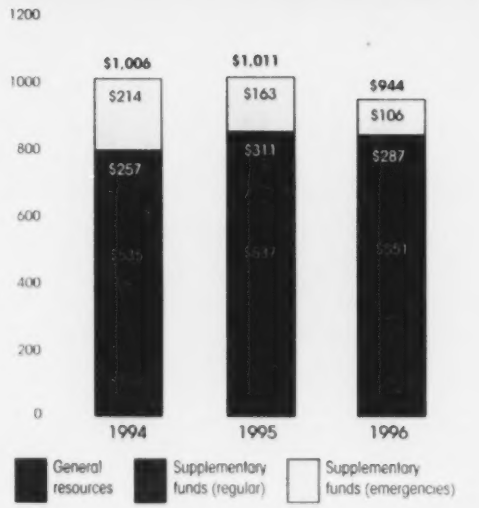
UNICEF also seeks supplementary funds contributions from governments and intergovernmental organizations to support projects being approved by the Executive Board as extensions of the general resources part of the country programme, or for relief and rehabilitation programmes in emergency situations, which, by their nature, are difficult to predict.

## GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Governments and intergovernmental organizations contributed $607 million of UNICEF's $944 million income in 1996. Nine governments increased their contributions over 1995. Among intergovernmental agencies, the highest contribution — more than $12 million — came from the European Union.

The United States increased its total contribution by $15 million over the prior year and remained the largest government donor to UNICEF, with a total of $143 million. The US is also the top contributor to general resources and has sustained its support for general resources at

**UNICEF INCOME 1994-1996**
(in millions of US dollars)




$100 million since 1993. The US per capita contribution ranks tenth among the top 20 government contributors *(see chart, page 56)*.

Sweden continues to be the second largest Government donor and the largest contributor to supplementary funds, despite a decline in the amount of its total contribution.

Although its $78 million contribution — $30 million for general resources — was a decrease from the previous year, the Netherlands remained the third largest government donor.

Norway became the largest per capita donor, contributing around $13 per person and increasing its total contribution, while maintaining its position as the fourth largest government donor. Its contribution to general resources was $40 million, slightly more than in 1995.

Japan became the fifth largest government donor, with $31 million for general resources out of a total $38 million contribution.

Denmark, now the sixth largest donor with a total contribution of $33 million, maintained its general resources contribution but reduced its supplementary funds contributions by $8 million.

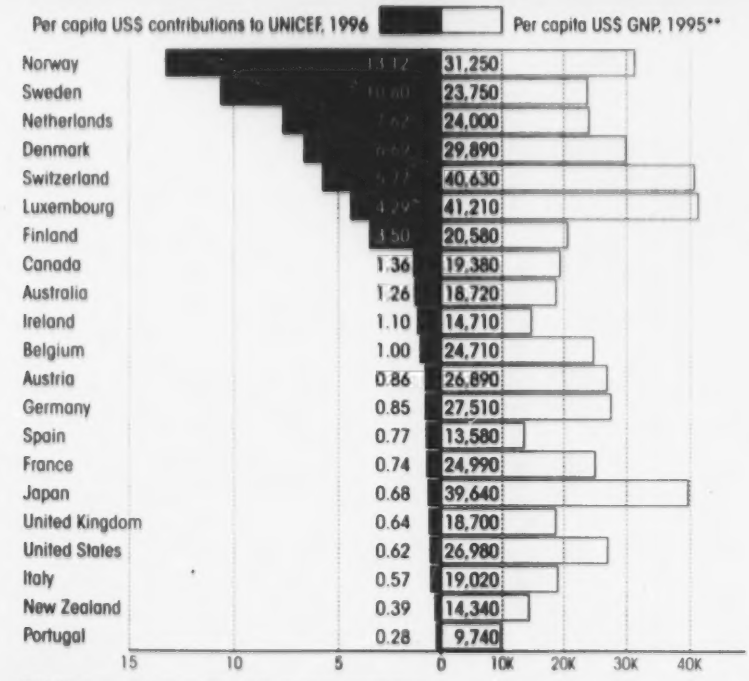
The United Kingdom remained the seventh largest government donor. It gave $30 million, a $4 million reduction from 1995 due to a $5 million decrease in its contributions to emergencies.

Canada also remained in its place as the eighth largest government donor. Of its total $29 million contribution, $10 million was for general resources.

Switzerland became the ninth largest government donor, and Finland the tenth.



**PER CAPITA CONTRIBUTIONS* TO UNICEF vs. GNP**
Member countries of the Development Assistance Committee




* Includes government, National Committees, NGOs and other contributions.
**Source: *1997 World Bank Atlas*

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# PROGRAMMES FUNDED FROM GENERAL RESOURCES

**The following country programmes, approved for multi-year periods, are funded from general resources. Other programmes are funded from supplementary funds.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Afghanistan** | 1996-99 | $24,000,000 |
| **Albania** | 1996-2000 | $4,850,000 |
| **Algeria** | 1996-97 | $2,000,000 |
| **Angola** | 1997-98 | $5,500,000 |
| **Argentina** | 1997-2001 | $5,000,000 |
| **Armenia** | 1995-99 | $5,000,000 |
| **Azerbaijan** | 1995-99 | $5,000,000 |
| **Bangladesh** | 1996-2000 | $88,000,000 |
| **Belize** | 1997-2001 | $3,750,000 |
| **Benin** | 1994-98 | $5,500,000 |
| **Bhutan** | 1997-2001 | $5,000,000 |
| **Bolivia** | 1993-97 | $6,875,000 |
| **Bosnia and Herzegovina** | 1996-98 | $5,025,000 |
| **Botswana** | 1995-99 | $5,200,000 |
| **Brazil** | 1994-2000 | $11,900,000 |
| **Burkina Faso** | 1996-2000 | $14,000,000 |
| **Burundi** | 1993-97 | $7,150,000 |
| **Cambodia** | 1996-2000 | $11,550,000 |
| **Cameroon** | 1996-97 | $2,800,000 |
| **Cape Verde** | 1995-99 | $3,750,000 |
| **Central African Rep.** | 1997-2001 | $5,000,000 |
| **Chad** | 1996-2000 | $8,500,000 |
| **Chile** | 1997-2001 | $5,000,000 |
| **China** | 1996-2000 | $100,000,000 |
| **Colombia** | 1993-97 | $6,050,000 |
| **Comoros** | 1997-2001 | $3,750,000 |
| **Congo** | 1997-98 | $2,000,000 |
| **Costa Rica** | 1997-2001 | $3,750,000 |
| **Côte d'Ivoire** | 1997-2001 | $10,250,000 |
| **Cuba** | 1997-2001 | $5,000,000 |
| **Djibouti** | 1994-98 | $3,500,000 |
| **Dominican Republic** | 1997-2001 | $5,000,000 |
| **E. Caribbean Islands**[1] | 1993-97 | $5,100,000 |
| **Ecuador** | 1994-98 | $5,000,000 |
| **Egypt** | 1995-2000 | $30,000,000 |
| **El Salvador** | 1997-2001 | $5,000,000 |
| **Equatorial Guinea** | 1994-98 | $3,750,000 |
| **Eritrea** | 1996-2000 | $7,500,000 |
| **Ethiopia** | mid '94-mid '99 | $75,000,000 |
| **Gabon** | 1997-2001 | $3,750,000 |
| **Gambia** | 1997-98 | $1,500,000 |
| **Georgia** | 1996-2000 | $4,850,000 |
| **Ghana** | 1996-2000 | $15,000,000 |
| **Guatemala** | 1997-2001 | $5,000,000 |
| **Guinea** | 1997-2001 | $7,400,000 |
| **Guinea-Bissau** | 1994-97 | $3,750,000 |
| **Guyana** | 1995-99 | $3,750,000 |
| **Haiti** | 1995-97 | $5,100,000 |
| **Honduras** | 1996-2000 | $4,850,000 |
| **India** | 1996-97 | $71,600,000 |
| **Indonesia** | 1995-2000 | $72,000,000 |
| **Iran** | 1993-97 | $6,000,000 |
| **Iraq** | 1997-98 | $2,000,000 |
| **Jamaica** | 1997-2001 | $3,750,000 |
| **Jordan**[2] | 1993-97 | $5,000,000 |
| **Kazakstan** | 1995-99 | $5,000,000 |
| **Kenya** | 1994-98 | $22,000,000 |
| **Korea, Dem. People's Rep.** | 1994-98 | $5,000,000 |
| **Kyrgyzstan** | 1995-99 | $5,000,000 |
| **Lao People's Dem. Rep.** | 1997 | $1,040,000 |
| **Lebanon**[2] | 1997-2001 | $5,000,000 |
| **Lesotho** | 1997-2001 | $5,000,000 |
| **Liberia** | 1997-98 | $2,000,000 |
| **Madagascar** | 1996-2000 | $15,900,000 |
| **Malawi** | 1997-2001 | $14,750,000 |
| **Malaysia** | 1997-2000 | $3,000,000 |
| **Maldives** | 1994-98 | $3,750,000 |
| **Mali** | 1993-97 | $20,625,000 |
| **Mauritania** | 1994-98 | $5,000,000 |
| **Mauritius** | 1996-2000 | $3,750,000 |
| **Mexico** | 1996-2001 | $6,280,000 |
| **Moldova, Rep. of** | 1997-2001 | $3,750,000 |
| **Mongolia** | 1997-2001 | $3,750,000 |
| **Morocco** | 1997-2001 | $7,360,000 |
| **Mozambique** | 1994-98 | $42,000,000 |
| **Myanmar** | 1996-2000 | $32,500,000 |
| **Namibia** | 1997-2001 | $5,000,000 |
| **Nepal** | 1997-2001 | $18,400,000 |
| **Nicaragua** | 1997-2001 | $5,000,000 |
| **Niger** | 1995-99 | $12,200,000 |
| **Nigeria** | 1997-2001 | $67,000,000 |
| **Oman** | 1997-2000 | $4,000,000 |
| **Pacific Islands**[3] | 1997-2001 | $7,000,000 |
| **Pakistan** | 1996-98 | $34,320,000 |
| **Panama** | 1997-2001 | $3,750,000 |
| **Papua New Guinea** | 1993-97 | $5,260,000 |
| **Paraguay** | 1995-99 | $6,000,000 |
| **Peru** | 1996-2000 | $5,380,000 |
| **Philippines** | 1994-98 | $22,500,000 |
| **Romania** | 1995-99 | $5,000,000 |
| **Rwanda** | 1993-97 | $9,900,000 |
| **Sao Tome and Principe** | 1997-2001 | $3,750,000 |
| **Senegal** | 1997-2001 | $5,080,000 |
| **Sierra Leone** | 1996-97 | $3,600,000 |
| **Somalia** | 1997-98 | $5,000,000 |
| **South Africa** | 1997-2001 | $5,200,000 |
| **Sri Lanka** | 1997-2001 | $5,000,000 |
| **Sudan** | 1997-2001 | $19,650,000 |
| **Swaziland** | 1996-2000 | $3,750,000 |
| **Syria**[2] | 1996-2000 | $5,000,000 |
| **Tajikistan** | 1995-99 | $6,250,000 |
| **Tanzania** | 1997-2001 | $31,720,000 |
| **Thailand** | 1994-98 | $10,750,000 |
| **The former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia** | 1996-98 | $2,175,000 |
| **Togo** | 1997-2001 | $5,000,000 |
| **Tunisia** | 1997-2001 | $5,000,000 |
| **Turkey** | 1997-2000 | $4,920,000 |
| **Turkmenistan** | 1995-99 | $5,000,000 |
| **Uganda** | 1995-2000 | $32,600,000 |
| **Uruguay** | 1997-2001 | $3,750,000 |
| **Uzbekistan** | 1995-99 | $6,250,000 |
| **Venezuela** | 1996-97 | $1,850,000 |
| **Viet Nam** | 1996-2000 | $44,000,000 |
| **Yemen** | 1994-98 | $12,500,000 |
| **Zaire** | 1996-97 | $14,000,000 |
| **Zambia** | 1997-2001 | $10,250,000 |
| **Zimbabwe** | 1995-2000 | $8,400,000 |

**UNICEF cooperated with 161 countries, areas and territories in 1996: 46 in sub-Saharan Africa (ESARO and WCARO); 37 in Latin America and the Caribbean (TACRO); 33 in Asia (EAPRO and ROSA); 18 in the Middle East and North Africa (MENARO); and 27 in Central and Eastern Europe, Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS), and Baltic States.**

Financed from funds for regional activities: in ESARO — Seychelles; in TACRO — Bahamas, Barbados, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago,[1] Turks and Caicos; in MENARO — Bahrain, Kuwait, Libya, Qatar, United Arab Emirates; in CEE/CIS and Baltic States — Belarus[4], Bulgaria, Croatia[4], Czech Republic, Estonia, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia[4], Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russian Federation[4], Slovakia, Ukraine[4].

[1] Includes Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Turks and Caicos Islands.

[2] UNICEF is providing assistance for Palestinian children and women for 1996-97 in the following: West Bank and Gaza - $2,400,000; Lebanon - $700,000; Syria - $400,000; and for 1994-97 in Jordan - $800,000.

[3] Includes Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

[4] Also funded from supplementary funds.

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## TOP 20 DONORS TO UNICEF (1996)

| Governments | Contributions* (in US$ thousands) | Per capita** contribution (in US$) | Committees for UNICEF | Contributions* (in US$ thousands) | Per capita** contribution (in US$) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | 143,234 | 0.55 | Germany | 60,340 | 0.74 |
| Sweden | 91,700 | 10.42 | Japan | 43,106 | 0.34 |
| Netherlands | 78,224 | 5.08 | Netherlands | 39,456 | 2.56 |
| Norway | 55,412 | 12.89 | France | 33,128 | 0.57 |
| Japan | 37,800 | 0.30 | Spain | 27,821 | 0.71 |
| Denmark | 32,777 | 6.30 | Italy | 23,529 | 0.41 |
| United Kingdom | 30,246 | 0.52 | United States | 20,317 | 0.08 |
| Canada | 28,798 | 0.99 | Switzerland | 16,230 | 2.32 |
| Switzerland | 18,177 | 2.60 | Canada | 11,156 | 0.38 |
| Finland | 15,325 | 3.00 | Australia | 10,721 | 0.60 |
| Australia | 12,019 | 0.68 | United Kingdom | 7,479 | 0.13 |
| France | 9,674 | 0.17 | Belgium | 5,874 | 0.58 |
| Germany | 9,304 | 0.11 | Hong Kong | 4,765 | 0.78 |
| Italy | 9,159 | 0.16 | Korea, Rep. | 3,873 | 0.09 |
| Belgium | 4,249 | 0.42 | Greece | 3,525 | 0.34 |
| Austria | 3,479 | 0.43 | Austria | 3,486 | 0.44 |
| Ireland | 3,342 | 0.93 | Portugal | 2,721 | 0.27 |
| Spain | 2,336 | 0.06 | Finland | 2,547 | 0.50 |
| Korea, Rep. | 1,550 | 0.03 | Denmark | 2,164 | 0.42 |
| China | 1,112 | ... | Sweden | 1,897 | 0.22 |

*Estimates as of 13 March 1997

** Population figures based on data from *World Development Report* World Bank, 1996

## EXPENDITURES

The Executive Director authorizes expenditures to meet recommendations approved by the Board for programme assistance. The pace of expenditure depends on the speed of implementation in any country.

In 1996, UNICEF total expenditures including write-offs amounted to $936 million (compared with $1,022 million in 1995). Direct programme assistance ($684 million) and programme support costs ($140 million) amounted to 88 per cent of UNICEF's total expenditure. Administrative costs comprise an additional 10 per cent of total expenditure, and write-offs and other charges amounted to 2 per cent ($15 million). The breakdown of expenditures on direct programme assistance is shown in the chart on UNICEF expenditure on programmes by sector *(see this page)*.

## BIENNIAL BUDGET 1996-1997

In September 1995, the Executive Board approved two interim allocations for the administrative and programme support budget and the global funds budget. One interim allocation was for headquarters and regional offices for the year 1996, equal in amount for the first year of the 1996-1997 baseline budget. The other allocation was for field offices, to cover the 1996-1997 biennium, equal in amount to the baseline budget estimates.

These interim allocations were to be replaced by an integrated budget proposal. In April 1996, an integrated budget was submitted to the Executive Board to consolidate, for the first time, the allocations for the administrative and programme support budget and the global funds budget for headquarters and regional offices.

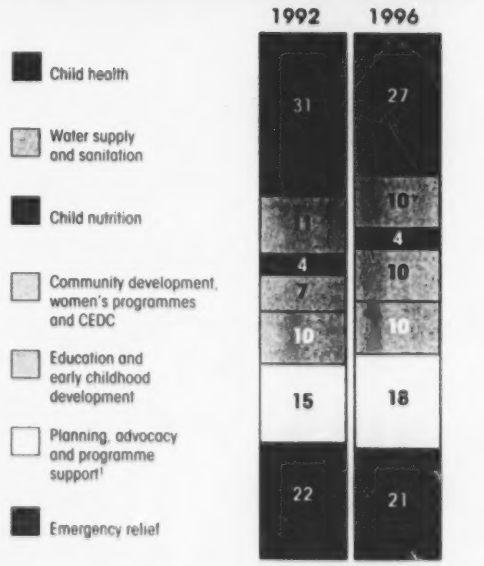
This integrated budget submission also reflected some structural changes based on improved operational effectiveness. With a no-growth budget over the 1994-1995 biennium achieved through efficiency measures at headquarters, the organization was able to absorb the costs of establishing a regional office for the CEE/CIS and the Baltic States and in addition to allocating $5.7 million for programmes in that region.

In January 1997, further consolidations of HQ divisions (from 19 in 1994-1995 to 15 in 1996-1997) were reported to the Board. This generated additional savings which contributed to the funding of a new financial system.

In January 1998, the biennium support budget for 1998-1999 will be submitted to the Executive Board, incorporating the administrative and programme support budgets for the entire organization.

## UNICEF EXPENDITURE ON PROGRAMMES BY SECTOR 1992 and 1996

(in percentages)




[1] Planning, advocacy and programme support includes cross-sectoral programme expenditures that cannot be directly identified to specific sectors. These costs relate to programme planning, monitoring, evaluation, statistics, social mobilization, advocacy, technical assistance and other support.





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## GREETING CARDS AND RELATED OPERATIONS

DURING 1995/1996, NET INCOME FROM THE sale of cards and other products and private sector fund-raising generated $150 million for general resources and an equal amount for supplementary funds.

Although total sales of greeting cards were flat at 158 million units, some countries achieved outstanding increases. In Spain, sales rose by more than 2.2 million cards, making that country the global leader in sales of UNICEF cards. Notable increases were also achieved by Portugal and Germany.

Corporate and other partnerships spearheaded by GCO also yielded increased revenues during this period. In 1995/1996, private sector fund-raising focused on UNICEF's 50th anniversary. Also important was support for children in war zones, particularly through the Olympic Aid-Atlanta 1996 initiative. Investments from the ongoing Fund-raising Development Programme enabled many National Committees and field offices to launch fund-raising campaigns to increase their donor base. Mailings aimed at expanding donors included 2.5 million copies of the 'Review of the Year' fund-raising booklet and more than 10 million copies of the 'Pocket Diary', a colourful direct-mail premium, produced by GCO in over 20 languages. GCO also provided its national market partners with other materials, such as fund-raising kits on immunization and child labour and special packages on fund-raising techniques.

In order to improve its future overall performance and generate increased income for UNICEF programmes, GCO commissioned a major study of the greeting card operation by an external consulting firm. The study examined how GCO can increase its future business and how it can improve operations. The recommendations include consolidating GCO in Europe, simplifying business practices and streamlining the product line, while focusing on fewer markets. Some of the recommendations were test-marketed and implemented in 1996.

In 1997, GCO will change its fiscal year (currently 1 May through 30 April) to cover the period 1 January to 31 December, in order to synchronize its year with the one used by the rest of the organization. Therefore, in 1997, GCO will have a fiscal period from 1 May through 31 December.

### PARTNERSHIPS

✦ CHANGE FOR GOOD: In 1996, 12 airlines worldwide participated in the high visibility UNICEF fund-raising programme, 'Change for Good'. Over $4.5 million was raised for UNICEF.

✦ ITT SHERATON HOTELS AND INTERCONTINENTAL HOTELS: The Hotel Chain Partnerships with ITT Sheraton Hotels and Intercontinental Hotels, which involve hundreds of hotels worldwide, raised more than $1.5 million in its first year.

✦ KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL: To help eliminate iodine deficiency disorders, Kiwanis International's fund-raising campaign has raised nearly $6 million in gifts and pledges contributed to UNICEF since mid-1994. Through partnerships established between seven Kiwanis districts and National Committees for UNICEF, 31 countries have received more than $4 million in aid from Kiwanis.

✦ 50TH ANNIVERSARY COIN PROGRAMME: In 1996, 24 nations agreed to participate in the UNICEF 50th anniversary coin programme. Each country will issue precious metal coins that are legal tender in its national currency. Royalties from the sales of these coins will benefit UNICEF programmes. A similar programme in 1979 for the International Year of the Child raised $3 million.

The key involvement of UNICEF Goodwill Ambassadors, notably Sir Peter Ustinov and Roger Moore, was instrumental to the success of these international partnership fund-raising efforts.

## INFORMATION RESOURCES

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF EXTERNAL EXPERTS and in consultation with other UN organizations, internal teams focused on systems applications and Information Technology (IT) strategy in 1996.

Three major new systems will replace all existing applications by the year 1999, providing UNICEF with the benefits of streamlined work processes and more timely, accurate information. The systems are: the Programme Manager System (PROMS), for use in field offices to link work planning to the allocation and expenditure of funds; the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS), a UN-developed system for human resource management and payroll; and a new central financial system. These new systems, when complete, will assist all offices in planning

and managing their programmes, budgets and human resources efficiently.

Global connectivity progressed, with more than 100 UNICEF locations now using e-mail. This has facilitated a substantial reduction in telephone and postal expenditure. UNICEF expects all offices to be using e-mail and/or the Internet by the end of 1997.

## INTERNAL AUDIT

DURING 1996, UNICEF COMPLETED 30 audits (25 in country offices and 5 at headquarters). Increased attention was paid to the quality of audits, and a new strategy was developed for approaching them. Greater attention was paid to larger field offices and key headquarters divisions. Measures were initiated to improve internal controls, oversight and supervision. The audit approach is increasingly participatory and is helping to guide the development of office improvement plans and to find solutions to underlying problems.

Efforts also focused on improving efficiency. Innovative work began to assess the quality of programme implementation, in close consultation with those responsible for guiding programme evaluations. Emphasis is placed on ensuring best value for money in all aspects of UNICEF transactions and programme activities.

The Office of Internal Audit is tracking implementation of audit recommendations more closely and is undertaking follow-up visits in cases where there are concerns regarding implementation. An important follow-up audit of the Kenya country office took place in 1996 with a satisfactory result.

## SUPPLY MANAGEMENT

SUPPLY MANAGEMENT PLAYS AN IMPORTANT role in maintaining the preparedness and efficiency of UNICEF's programmes. During the year, UNICEF purchase orders for supplies and equipment amounted to $299 million, including $207 million for purchase orders filled through supply headquarters in Copenhagen, and $92 million for those filled by local vendors directly for the field offices.

Efforts by countries to reach the year 2000 goal of polio eradication doubled demand for polio vaccines from 1995 to 1996. With assistance from WHO, UNICEF ensured that no request went unfulfilled.

A vaccine vial monitor for the oral polio vaccine was introduced to the market during the year, after 10 years of research and development. The monitor is a simple patch that attaches to the vaccine vial label and changes colour in temperatures high enough to damage the vaccine. The monitor, introduced on a limited basis, was well received by health care workers, who found it easy to use. Versions of the monitor suitable for other vaccines are being developed.

As part of the Management Excellence Programme, UNICEF commissioned a study of its supply function and developed a plan to make supply more efficient and relevant to the organization's needs and goals, particularly as an integrated part of the country programmes.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

UNICEF'S ABILITY TO DELIVER EFFECTIVE programmes for children and women hinges on its strong field presence. At the end of 1996, the organization had more than 7,200 staff members assigned to 259 locations in 132 countries. Eighty-five per cent of those staff were serving in the field.

UNICEF's global priorities are reflected in its staff distribution. Forty per cent of staff are assigned to African countries south of the Sahara; 23 per cent in Asia; 11 per cent in Latin America and the Caribbean; 8 per cent in the Middle East and North Africa; and 3 per cent in Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States. The remainder are assigned to headquarters locations in New York, Copenhagen and Florence, as well as the Geneva Regional Office for Europe.

UNICEF's staff comprises individuals from 158 nationalities; 82 per cent are from developing countries. Almost half of UNICEF's professional staff are National Officers, who work within their own countries and are chosen for their special knowledge of local situations, languages and culture.

Women hold 40 per cent of the professional positions in UNICEF, and the number of women appointed to positions at the director level increased from 10 per cent of staff in 1985 to 24 per cent in 1996.

# TOTAL UNICEF INCOME BY SOURCE OF FUNDING, 1996[1]

| | Governmental Contributions | | Private Sector Contributions | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | National Committees[2] | | Other Contributions | | |
| | General Resources | Supplementary Funds[3] | General Resources[4] | Supplementary Funds[3] | General Resources[4] | Supplementary Funds[3] | Total |
| Albania | | | | | 6,397 | | 6,397 |
| Algeria | 25,000 | | | | 124,479 | | 149,479 |
| Andorra | 5,000 | | 39,540 | 52,887 | | | 97,427 |
| Angola | | | | | 30,447 | | 30,447 |
| Argentina | | 341,355 | | | 384,049 | 1,286,373 | 2,011,777 |
| Australia | 3,609,023 | 8,409,654 | 1,045,928 | 9,675,593 | 5,852 | | 22,746,050 |
| Austria | 1,984,742 | 1,494,700 | 2,652,983 | 833,043 | | | 6,965,468 |
| Azerbaijan | | | | | 2,882 | 19,790 | 22,672 |
| Bahrain | | | | | 133,308 | | 133,308 |
| Bangladesh | 30,101 | | | | 41,304 | 47,393 | 118,798 |
| Barbados | | | | | 41,985 | | 41,985 |
| Belgium | 2,555,911 | 1,692,954 | 4,991,490 | 882,628 | 158 | | 10,123,141 |
| Belize | 10,000 | | | | 8,228 | | 18,228 |
| Benin | 3,500 | | | | 38,367 | | 41,867 |
| Bhutan | 6,956 | | | | 3,900 | | 10,856 |
| Bolivia | | 47,222 | | | 120,657 | | 167,879 |
| Botswana | | | | | 7,958 | | 7,958 |
| Brazil | 300,000 | | | | 3,248,624 | 10,537,318 | 14,085,942 |
| Bulgaria | 160 | | 135,518 | | | | 135,678 |
| Burkina Faso | | | | | 22,506 | | 22,506 |
| Burundi | | | | | 1,522 | | 1,522 |
| Cambodia | | | | | 3,325 | | 3,325 |
| Cameroon | | | | | 52,280 | | 52,280 |
| Canada | 10,480,990 | 18,316,682 | 3,050,308 | 8,105,378 | 166 | 18,678 | 39,972,202 |
| Cape Verde | | | | | 25,797 | | 25,797 |
| Central African Republic | | | | | 6,775 | | 6,775 |
| Chad | | 139,500 | | | 15,103 | | 154,603 |
| Chile | 76,000 | | | | 11,996 | 24,351 | 112,347 |
| China | 1,112,077 | | | | 129,429 | | 1,241,506 |
| Colombia | 449,922 | | | | 888,762 | 6,670 | 1,345,354 |
| Comoros | | | | | 2,578 | | 2,578 |
| Congo | | | | | 27,011 | | 27,011 |
| Costa Rica | 26,761 | | | | 47,249 | | 74,010 |
| Côte d'Ivoire | | | | | 67,099 | 1,533 | 68,632 |
| Croatia | | | | | 228,822 | | 228,822 |
| Cuba | 24,817 | | | | 151,372 | 12,946 | 189,135 |
| Cyprus | | | | | 352,219 | | 352,219 |
| Czech Republic | 149,254 | | 147,716 | | | | 296,970 |
| Democratic People's Rep. of Korea | 9,662 | | | | | | 9,662 |
| Denmark | 31,484,314 | 1,292,362 | 1,937,143 | 227,413 | | | 34,941,232 |
| Djibouti | 1,000 | | | | 11,414 | | 12,414 |
| Dominican Republic | | | | | 129,551 | | 129,551 |
| Ecuador | | | | | 225,514 | 43,593 | 269,107 |
| Egypt | 38,576 | | | | 85,279 | | 123,855 |
| El Salvador | 50,000 | | | | 30,061 | | 80,061 |
| Equatorial Guinea | | | | | 3,318 | | 3,318 |
| Eritrea | | | | | 2,700 | | 2,700 |
| Estonia | | | 28,508 | | | | 28,508 |
| Ethiopia | 49,509 | | | | 33,228 | | 82,737 |
| Federal Republic of Yugoslavia | | | | | | 16,004 | 16,004 |

1) All contributions shown in US dollars. 2) A total of $4,411,754 contributed by the Kiwanis Foundation in 1996 is reported under the following National Committees: Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Netherlands, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States. 3) Includes funds for regular and emergency programmes. 4) Greeting Card and Related Operations (GCO) income included.



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| | Governmental Contributions | | Private Sector Contributions | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | National Committees[2] | | Other Contributions | | |
| | General Resources | Supplementary Funds[3] | General Resources[4] | Supplementary Funds[3] | General Resources[4] | Supplementary Funds[3] | Total |
| Fiji | 3,453 | | | | 2,662 | | 6,115 |
| Finland | 12,616,107 | 2,708,523 | 2,149,832 | 397,717 | | | 17,872,179 |
| France | 9,615,385 | 58,252 | 29,907,919 | 3,219,526 | 153,283 | | 42,954,365 |
| Gabon | | 198,059 | | | 13,108 | | 211,167 |
| Gambia | | | | | 9,873 | | 9,873 |
| Germany | 8,053,691 | 1,250,463 | 40,018,576 | 20,321,914 | 205 | | 69,644,849 |
| Ghana | 5,000 | | | | 29,647 | | 34,647 |
| Gibraltar | | | | | 16,584 | | 16,584 |
| Greece | 220,000 | | 3,352,652 | 172,450 | | | 3,745,102 |
| Guatemala | | | | | 49,119 | 32,141 | 81,260 |
| Guinea | | | | | 25,498 | 16,444 | 41,942 |
| Guinea-Bissau | 2,500 | | | | 15,175 | 20,754 | 38,429 |
| Guyana | 1,474 | | | | 6,462 | | 7,936 |
| Haiti | | 503,240 | | | 23,483 | | 526,723 |
| Holy See | 2,000 | | | | | | 2,000 |
| Honduras | 46,019 | | | | 40,047 | | 86,066 |
| Hong Kong | 14,607 | | 3,138,811 | 1,625,209 | | | 4,778,627 |
| Hungary | | | 285,352 | | | | 285,352 |
| Iceland | | | | | 21,880 | | 21,880 |
| India | | | | | 1,265,286 | 72,254 | 1,337,540 |
| Indonesia | | | | | 393,183 | | 393,183 |
| Iran | 88,000 | | | | 53,354 | | 141,354 |
| Iraq | | | | | 8,149 | | 8,149 |
| Ireland | 1,657,335 | 1,684,848 | 589,721 | | 31 | | 3,931,935 |
| Israel | 110,000 | | 38,728 | | | | 148,728 |
| Italy | | 9,159,409 | 18,750,016 | 4,946,527 | | | 32,855,952 |
| Jamaica | 475 | | | | 33,557 | | 34,032 |
| Japan | 30,930,000 | 6,870,000 | 34,260,710 | 8,844,788 | 35,730 | 19,231 | 80,960,459 |
| Jordan | 14,124 | | | | 86,242 | 2,000 | 102,366 |
| Kenya | | | | | 74,509 | 2,000 | 76,509 |
| Kuwait | 200,000 | | | | 42,704 | | 242,704 |
| Lao People's Democratic Republic | 5,000 | | | | 3,423 | | 8,423 |
| Latvia | | | 11,605 | | | | 11,605 |
| Lebanon | 5,000 | | | | 148,355 | 12,601 | 165,956 |
| Lesotho | | | | | 6,337 | | 6,337 |
| Liberia | | | | | 1,523 | | 1,523 |
| Libya | 447,223 | | | | 474,736 | | 921,959 |
| Lithuania | | | 52,309 | | | | 52,309 |
| Luxembourg | 319,489 | 333,456 | 891,240 | 213,725 | 338 | | 1,758,248 |
| Madagascar | | 150,000 | | | 27,909 | | 177,909 |
| Malawi | 2,614 | | | | 13,410 | | 16,024 |
| Malaysia | 84,000 | | | | 49,827 | | 133,827 |
| Maldives | 5,051 | | | | 6,282 | | 11,333 |
| Mali | | | | | 13,389 | 2,551 | 15,940 |
| Malta | 4,139 | | | | 7,200 | | 11,339 |
| Mauritania | 3,676 | | | | 16,244 | | 19,920 |
| Mauritius | 6,452 | | | | 76,957 | 55,018 | 138,427 |
| Mexico | 210,750 | | | | 495,288 | 83,553 | 789,591 |
| Monaco | 17,908 | | | | 40,584 | 59,289 | 117,781 |
| Mongolia | 10,000 | | | | 1,394 | | 11,394 |
| Morocco | 86,634 | | | | 188,069 | | 274,703 |
| Mozambique | | | | | 48,864 | | 48,864 |

| | Governmental Contributions | | Private Sector Contributions | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | National Committees[2] | | Other Contributions | | |
| | General Resources | Supplementary Funds[3] | General Resources[4] | Supplementary Funds[3] | General Resources[4] | Supplementary Funds[3] | Total |
| Myanmar | | | | | 383,827 | | 383,827 |
| Namibia | 4,000 | | | | 868 | | 4,868 |
| Nepal | | | | | 4,822 | | 4,822 |
| Netherlands | 29,866,764 | 48,356,948 | 24,173,538 | 15,282,159 | | | 117,679,409 |
| New Zealand | 600,000 | 330,342 | 262,619 | 202,269 | 1,530 | | 1,396,760 |
| Nicaragua | | | | | 21,125 | | 21,125 |
| Niger | | | | | 17,586 | | 17,586 |
| Nigeria | | | | | 233,046 | 13,671 | 246,717 |
| Norway | 39,602,370 | 15,809,554 | 1,627,545 | 64,299 | | 6,475 | 57,110,243 |
| Oman | 50,000 | | | | 79,816 | | 129,816 |
| Pacific Island countries | | | | | | 106,535 | 106,535 |
| Pakistan | 126,758 | | | | 107,896 | 16,298 | 250,952 |
| Panama | 25,000 | | | | 95,075 | | 120,075 |
| Papua New Guinea | | | | | 14,031 | | 14,031 |
| Paraguay | 6,000 | | | | 66,756 | | 72,756 |
| Peru | | 996,611 | | | 341,563 | 46,625 | 1,384,799 |
| Philippines | 213,966 | 3,000 | | | 327,462 | 653,990 | 1,198,418 |
| Poland | 47,970 | | 589,329 | | | | 637,299 |
| Portugal | 100,000 | | 2,558,600 | 161,715 | | | 2,820,315 |
| Qatar | | | | | 13,204 | | 13,204 |
| Republic of Korea | 1,200,000 | 350,000 | 3,073,137 | 800,469 | 500 | | 5,424,106 |
| Republic of Moldova | | | | | | 7,900 | 7,900 |
| Romania | 2,795 | | 211,270 | | | | 214,065 |
| Rwanda | | | | | 3,335 | | 3,335 |
| Saint Lucia | 2,586 | | | | | | 2,586 |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | 1,500 | | | | | | 1,500 |
| San Marino | | | 12,110 | 81,329 | | | 93,439 |
| Sao Tome and Principe | | | | | 1,407 | | 1,407 |
| Saudi Arabia | 2,000,000 | | | | 199,601 | | 2,199,601 |
| Senegal | | | | | 112,526 | 106,500 | 219,026 |
| Sierra Leone | | | | | 7,075 | | 7,075 |
| Singapore | 20,000 | | | | 215,976 | 4,142 | 240,118 |
| Slovakia | | | 165,279 | | | | 165,279 |
| Slovenia | 1,250 | | 851,452 | | | | 852,702 |
| South Africa | 26,247 | | | | 63 | | 26,310 |
| Spain | 2,097,169 | 238,838 | 13,421,621 | 14,427,736 | 25 | | 30,185,389 |
| Sri Lanka | 16,830 | 844,595 | | | 42,141 | | 903,566 |
| Sudan | 1,000 | | | | 46,459 | 7,488 | 54,947 |
| Swaziland | 1,867 | | | | | | 1,867 |
| Sweden | 42,544,956 | 49,155,277 | 1,856,272 | 41,206 | | | 93,597,711 |
| Switzerland | 13,178,295 | 4,998,991 | 11,717,930 | 4,512,253 | 469,540 | 5,721,000 | 40,598,009 |
| Syria | 24,060 | | | | 91,347 | 4,832 | 120,239 |
| Tanzania | 3,735 | | | | 34,734 | | 38,469 |
| Thailand | 342,034 | | | | 187,206 | 769,199 | 1,298,439 |
| The Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia | | | | | 34,441 | 5,911 | 40,352 |
| Togo | | | | | 13,035 | | 13,035 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 1,679 | | | | 22,303 | | 23,982 |
| Tunisia | 37,229 | | | | 163,243 | | 200,472 |
| Turkey | 125,000 | 6,821 | 1,212,260 | 96,515 | | | 1,440,596 |
| Uganda | | | | | 59,976 | 1,400 | 61,376 |
| Ukraine | | | | | 378 | | 378 |
| United Arab Emirates | 200,000 | | | | 9,989 | | 209,989 |



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| | Governmental Contributions | | Private Sector Contributions | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | National Committees[2] | | Other Contributions | | |
| | General Resources | Supplementary Funds[3] | General Resources[4] | Supplementary Funds[3] | General Resources[4] | Supplementary Funds[3] | Total |
| United Kingdom | 13,076,923 | 17,168,977 | 2,191,858 | 5,287,266 | 5,933 | 14,340 | 37,745,298 |
| United States | 100,000,000 | 43,233,666 | 8,178,100 | 12,138,658 | 63,288 | 219,899 | 163,833,612 |
| Uruguay | | | | | 271,985 | | 271,985 |
| Venezuela | 12,179 | | | | 108,907 | | 121,086 |
| Viet Nam | 12,300 | | | | 14,758 | 27,015 | 54,073 |
| West Bank and Gaza | | | | | 7,586 | | 7,586 |
| Yemen | 16,720 | | | | 35,415 | | 52,135 |
| Zaire | | | | | 120,458 | | 120,458 |
| Zambia | 14,266 | 632,475 | | | 40,723 | | 687,464 |
| Zimbabwe | 4,854 | | | | 33,994 | | 38,848 |
| **SUBTOTAL** | **362,879,683** | **236,776,774** | **219,579,526** | **112,614,674** | **14,900,527** | **20,125,703** | **966,876,888** |
| Intergovernmental, Non-governmental and United Nations System Contributors | | | | | | | |
| European Union | | 12,129,937 | | | | | 12,129,937 |
| OPEC Fund | | 150,000 | | | | | 150,000 |
| Audrey Hepburn Tribute | | | | | | 17,428 | 17,428 |
| Bernard Van Leer Foundation, Netherlands | | | | | | 92,796 | 92,796 |
| Canadian Public Health Association | | | | | | 75,451 | 75,451 |
| International Child Development Centre | | | | | | 6,427 | 6,427 |
| International Development Research Centre | | | | | | 72,212 | 72,212 |
| Int. Fund for Agricultural Development | | | | | | 373,668 | 373,668 |
| Lions Club | | | | | | 1,924 | 1,924 |
| Nippon Foundation | | | | | | 2,544,100 | 2,544,100 |
| Rädda Barnen, Sweden | | | | | | 32,112 | 32,112 |
| Redd Barna, Norway | | | | | | 32,541 | 32,541 |
| Rockefeller Foundation | | | | | | 20,135 | 20,135 |
| Rotary International | | | | | | 12,760,150 | 12,760,150 |
| Tetsuko Kuroyanagi, Japan | | | | | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 2,000,000 |
| UN Women's Guild | | | | | | 12,693 | 12,693 |
| UN and UN Agencies Staff | | | | | 5,500 | | 5,500 |
| UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) | | | | | | 1,295,565 | 1,295,565 |
| UN Emergency Funds (DHA/Iraq) | | | | | | 925,000 | 925,000 |
| UN Secretariat | | | | | | 602,333 | 602,333 |
| UNCDF, New York | | | | | | 100,380 | 100,380 |
| UNDP, New York | | | | | | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| UNESCO, Paris | | | | | | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| UNFPA, New York | | | | | | (1,000) | (1,000) |
| UNHCR, Geneva | | | | | | 154,583 | 154,583 |
| World Food Programme | | | | | | 4,500 | 4,500 |
| **SUBTOTAL** | **362,879,683** | **249,056,711** | **219,579,526** | **112,614,674** | **15,906,027** | **40,262,701** | **1,000,299,323** |
| OTHER INCOME | | | | | | | 33,471,790 |
| INCOME ADJUSTMENT TO PRIOR YEARS[5] | 1,474,644 | (6,518,933) | (1,632,990) | | 1,717 | 28,492 | (6,647,070) |
| LESS COST OF GREETING CARDS SOLD | | | (23,126,755) | | (9,528,211) | | (32,654,966) |
| LESS GCO FISCAL PERIOD ADJUSTMENT[6] | | | | | | | (50,349,476) |
| **GRAND TOTAL** | **364,354,327** | **242,537,778** | **194,819,781** | **112,614,674** | **6,379,533** | **40,291,193** | **944,119,602** |

5) Includes refunds and adjustments to income recognized in previous years. 6) GCO operates on a different fiscal year from UNICEF. This adjustment reconciles the different accounting periods.

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ANNEX

# *Executive Board*

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD FOUR SESSIONS IN 1996: the first (22-25 January), second (9-12 April) and third (16-19 September) regular sessions and the annual session (17-21 June). The Board's major decisions of 1996 included:

◆ **UNICEF MISSION STATEMENT:** The Board's first decision of 1996 was to adopt the UNICEF Mission Statement (decision 1996/1).

◆ **COMMEMORATION OF UNICEF'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY:** During its annual session, the Executive Board commemorated the anniversary with a special ceremony held at United Nations Headquarters. The programme included statements by H.E. Ambassador Ion Gorita (Romania), President of the Executive Board; Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, on behalf of the United Nations Secretary-General; Margaret Catley-Carlson, President of the Population Council; Olara Otunna, President of the International Academy; and the Executive Director of UNICEF. There was also a performance by the Yamaha Junior Original Orchestra and an audio-visual presentation on the history of UNICEF.

At its second regular session, the Board recommended to the General Assembly that it allocate a plenary meeting during its fifty-first session (1996) to the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of UNICEF (decision 1996/18).

◆ **MAURICE PATE AWARD:** The Executive Board presented the 1996 Maurice Pate Award to the Centre régional pour le développement et la santé (CREDESA) (Regional Centre for Health and Development) of Benin. The Award, with a $25,000 stipend, was given in recognition of its work in community financing and PHC. CREDESA was established in 1983 as a result of the momentum created by the Alma Ata Conference on Primary Health Care. It was founded by Professor Eusebe Alihounou, who is also Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Head of the University Clinic of Gynaecology and Obstetrics. Since its founding, CREDESA, a centre for research, training and services in PHC and low-cost, grass-roots development, has served as a training centre for health personnel from many countries in West and Central Africa (decision 1996/9).

◆ **POLICY DECISIONS:** The Board took a number of decisions related to UNICEF policies in the following programming areas:

» Follow-up to the World Summit for Children: The Board urged all Governments to complete the national review of progress towards implementation of the Summit goals and urged all countries to develop feasible and sustainable strategies and programmes to achieve the nationally adapted goals for children for the year 2000 (decision 1996/21).

» Children in need of special protection measures: The Board endorsed a series of policies and strategies to protect children from the risk of exploitation, violence, abuse, abandonment and other forms of special disadvantage, emphasizing that the special protection measures should be implemented within the framework of the rights of children. The Executive Director was requested to incorporate the policies and strategies in all relevant UNICEF programmes, especially targeted towards those in need of special protection measures (decision 1996/27).

» UNICEF emergency services: The Board requested the secretariat to prepare a conceptual framework, including guiding principles and methodologies, for UNICEF emergency interventions (decision 1996/2). The framework, discussed by the Board at its annual session, stressed that UNICEF seeks to facilitate and support emergency interventions that aim not only at child survival, but also at a range of protection and development outcomes. The family, especially the mother, must be empowered with the knowledge, skills and resources to care for and protect the child. UNICEF emergency programme actions for children are a mixture of advocacy, capacity-building and support to service provision, directed towards mothers, families, communities and the national social and economic environment. The Board took note of the framework and requested that a series of related operational papers be prepared for 1997 (decision 1996/28).

» Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women: The Board reaffirmed that UNICEF follow-up to the Beijing Conference should be based on previously approved policies on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, basic education, the health strategy and follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development. The Board endorsed a framework for action that emphasized girls' education; the health of girls, adolescents girls and women; and children's and women's rights (decision 1996/3).

» UNICEF health strategy: The Board reviewed an outline of a plan for implementing the UNICEF health strategy, adopted in 1995. The outline, the

basis for a full implementation plan to be submitted to the Board in 1997, stressed the importance of country programming, partnerships, advocacy, changing staffing needs in the light of the new strategy and organizational support for the implementation process (decision 1996/31).

Allocation of general resources: At its third regular session, the Executive Board discussed the criteria for allocation of general resources to UNICEF country programmes. The criteria, which had been established by the Board over time, were a country's child population, under-five mortality rate and per capita GNP. The secretariat, at the request of the Board, had reviewed the system and suggested some possible changes. The Board reaffirmed that a modified allocation system should be based on the three existing core criteria; give higher priority to the low-income countries, particularly the least developed countries; be sufficiently flexible so as to accommodate the evolving needs of children in recipient countries and in countries with special circumstances; and be transparent, simple and consistent. The Executive Director was asked to submit a revised proposal to the Board in 1997, and in the meantime to continue allocating general resources on the basis of the current system (decision 1996/34).



◆ **MANAGEMENT REFORM:** At every session during the year, the Executive Director provided the Executive Board with progress reports on the management excellence programme (MEP). At the third regular session, the Board expressed appreciation for the secretariat's extensive and innovative process of consultation since the launching of MEP. The Board endorsed the secretariat's incremental approach and welcomed the tangible results achieved so far. It reaffirmed that the country programme is the primary strength of UNICEF and that the ultimate objective of MEP is to reinforce the capacity of country offices to manage and deliver country programmes effectively and efficiently. The Board stressed that national governments have the fundamental responsibility for the preparation of country programmes and for coordinating external assistance in accordance with their strategies and national priorities. The secretariat was requested to prepare for 1997 a progress report on oversight within UNICEF (decision 1996/32).

The relationship with National Committees for UNICEF was also discussed by the Board in the context of management reform. The Board endorsed a framework for the future role of the National Committees and a UNICEF-wide integrated strategy to manage this relationship in partnership with them. The Board also noted that the establishment of a new National Committee in a country where there is a UNICEF office and country programme approved by the Executive Board will depend on the mutual agreement between UNICEF, the respective national government and the potential organizers of the Committee (decision 1996/33).

As part of the management reform debate, the Executive Board reaffirmed the importance of public information and advocacy measures to promote increased awareness and better understanding of the activities of UNICEF. The Board encouraged the Executive Director to prepare an information and publication policy, paying special attention to the question of duplication with other United Nations publications and the financial and human constraints of UNICEF (decision 1996/15).

◆ **COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS:** At its first regular session, the Executive Board reviewed 41 country notes, prepared in accordance with a 1995 decision to have the secretariat, in consultation with recipient governments, inform the Board at an early stage of its preliminary ideas regarding the mix and weight given to programme strategies and priorities in each country programme. The comments made by delegations at the first session were shared with governments, and the country notes subsequently were developed into full country programme recommendations (CPRs) approved by the Board at its third regular session on a 'no objection' basis. At its second regular session, the Board also approved a number of other CPRs for which country notes had not been prepared. In total in 1996, the Board approved for future country programmes $501,433,649 from general resources and a ceiling of $1,008,314,000 to be sought from supplementary funds (decisions 1996/7 and 1996/29).

The Board also approved a five-year extension of the programme of cooperation with Rotary International's PolioPlus programme for 1996-2000 and an increase of $60 million in the ceiling for the supplementary funding programme amount, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions from Rotary International (decision 1996/17). In the same decision, the Board also approved a five-year extension of the Vaccine Independence Initiative for 1996-2000, with an amount of $10 million to be sought through supplementary funding. This extension was in accordance with the terms of the Board's original decision, without any changes, so that the Initiative could continue to offer countries the possibility of procuring vaccines with their own currencies to meet global disease control goals.

The Board authorized a three-year extension

for the International Child Development Centre (Florence, Italy) for 1997-1999, with $10.5 million as an approved ceiling for supplementary funding, of which 10.5 billion lire (approximately $6.7 million) had been pledged by the Government of Italy for the Centre's core activities, with the remainder to be sought from other donors for specific activities (decision 1996/30).

◆ **JOINT COMMITTEES:** The UNESCO/UNICEF Joint Committee on Education met at UNESCO headquarters in Paris on 6-7 May, and made a series of recommendations to the Executive Boards of both agencies, covering collaboration in the areas of capacity-building, educational statistics, monitoring, girls' education and education in emergency situations. The Board took note of the Committee's report and recommendations (decision 1996/23).

The UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy met in special session in Geneva on 15-16 May. Its recommendations covered a number of areas, including child health, women's health and education, nutrition, water supply and sanitation, progress towards the goals of the World Summit for Children and the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for Africa. The Executive Board took note of the Committee's report and recommendations (decision 1996/24).

◆ **BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL DECISIONS:** The Executive Board approved a budget of $346 million for headquarters and regional offices for 1996-1997. At the same time, the Board strongly reaffirmed the policy commitment of UNICEF to assist sustaining the implementation of the Bamako Initiative in the field. The Board also urged the Executive Director to do her utmost to absorb further revisions of the headquarters and regional offices budget during 1996-1997 within the established limit and to report to the Board at a very early stage about possible revisions. It noted that the actual percentage decrease in resources allocated to TACRO was not reflected in the budget and requested the Executive Director to ensure that future budget reports reflect the actual percentage changes in resources allocated to the regional offices. The Executive Director was also requested to continue consultations with the Executive Board about integrated budgeting in UNICEF, particularly with regard to field offices, and to take the results of those consultations into account when preparing the budget for 1998-1999 (decision 1996/10).

In a related decision, the Board approved the recovery from packing and assembly activities for 1996-1997 in the amount of $18 million (decision 1996/11). It also approved general resources allocations to field offices for 1996-1997 for the Emergency Programme Fund ($25 million), the Special Adjustment Facility for Latin America and the Caribbean (SAFLAC) ($3,540,000) and for higher-income countries ($1 million), totalling $29,540,000 (decision 1996/12). The Board further approved a ceiling for supplementary-funded programmes for 1996-1997 totalling $81.7 million, covering funds for regional offices, SAFLAC and activities related to health, nutrition, water supply and sanitation, education and intersectoral activities (decision 1996/13).

In a decision concerning programme activities in Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States, and the Baltic States, the Board approved an allocation of $715,900 for additional offices in the region. It also authorized the secretariat to establish liaison offices in Minsk (Belarus), Moscow (Russian Federation) and Kiev (Ukraine) (decision 1996/14).

At its second regular session, the Board heard an oral progress report on harmonization of UNICEF budget presentations with those of UNDP and UNFPA, and requested the Executive Director to submit initial proposals on harmonization to the first regular session of 1997 (decision 1996/16).

◆ Medium-term plan: At its annual session, the Executive Board took note of the medium-term plan, which constituted a flexible framework for supporting UNICEF programmes, and emphasized the importance of the link between the implementation of the plan and the expected outcomes of MEP. The Board underlined the necessity to engage in a debate on overall funding and the allocation of general resources, including the allocation for administrative and programme support costs. In that context, the Board encouraged the Executive Director to ensure that, during the period of the plan, the level of management and administrative costs did not exceed the current level in nominal terms. The Board approved with that provision the financial medium-term plan as a framework of projections for 1996-1999, including the preparation of up to $332 million in programme expenditures from general resources to be submitted to the Board in 1997 (decision 1996/26).

◆ **GREETING CARD AND RELATED OPERATIONS:** The Executive Board approved budgeted expenditures of $99.8 million for GCO for the fiscal year 1 May 1996 to 30 April 1997. It noted that for the same fiscal year, GCO net proceeds were budgeted at $274.4 million. The Board also encouraged GCO to work together with National Committees to ensure that a far larger proportion of funds raised by them are channelled to UNICEF general resources (decision 1996/22).

# Glossary

| | |
|---|---|
| BFHI | Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative |
| CEDAW | Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women |
| CEDC | children in especially difficult circumstances |
| CEE/CIS | Central and Eastern Europe/Commonwealth of Independent States |
| DHA | Department of Humanitarian Affairs (United Nations) |
| EAPRO | East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (UNICEF) |
| ECOSOC | United Nations Economic and Social Council |
| EPI | Expanded Programme on Immunization |
| ESARO | Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (UNICEF) |
| EU | European Union |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| FGM | female genital mutilation |
| GCO | Greeting Card and Related Operations (UNICEF) |
| GNP | gross national product |
| HIV/AIDS | human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome |
| ICDB | International Children's Day of Broadcasting |
| ICDC | International Child Development Centre (UNICEF) |
| ICRC | International Committee of the Red Cross |
| IDD | iodine deficiency disorders |
| IFRC | International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies |
| ILO | International Labour Organization |
| IMF | International Monetary Fund |
| ISCA | International Save the Children Alliance |
| JCGP | Joint Consultative Group on Policy (United Nations) |
| MENARO | Middle East and North Africa Regional Office (UNICEF) |
| NGO | non-governmental organization |
| NPA | national programme of action |
| OAU | Organization of African Unity |
| OPEC | Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries |
| ORS | oral rehydration salts |
| ORT | oral rehydration therapy |
| PAHO | Pan American Health Organization |
| PHC | primary health care |
| PROANDES | Programme for the Andean Region |
| ROSA | Regional Office for South Asia (UNICEF) |
| SAARC | South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation |
| TACRO | The Americas and Caribbean Regional Office (UNICEF) |
| UNAIDS | Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS |
| UNCDF | United Nations Capital Development Fund |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| UNHCR | Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |
| WCARO | West and Central Africa Regional Office (UNICEF) |
| WFP | World Food Programme |
| WHO | World Health Organization |

Note: All dollars are US dollars.





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